The Woman's Municipal League Bulletin

Vol. I.

1902—1903

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....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. APRIL, 1902 No. 1

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Tuesday, May 6th, at 2.15 p. m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

HON. JACOB A. CANTOR,
President Manhattan Borough,

will speak on "Parks."

MARGARET L. CHANLER,
Chairman.

Committee on Ice Water Fountains

Requests for fountains have come from all over the city. Seven hundred and seventy-five dollars have been raised so far and money for three fountains has been provisionally offered.

A parlor meeting has been held at the house of Mrs. John C. Day, and speeches by members of the Committee were made at the monthly meeting of the Quaker Church on Stuyvesant Square, and at a luncheon of the Alumnæ of Miss Comstock's School.

Mrs J. M. Dillingham
MRS. P. R. REYNOLDS,
Chairman.

All Communications should be sent to WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, 21 Park Row, Room 701.

Committee on Streets of the Woman's Municipal League

ROOM 701, 21 PARK ROW, NEW YORK

We respectfully call your attention to the card issued by the Department of Street Cleaning, and delivered by them at your house, which gives exact information as to the duties of householders.

It is hoped that each member of the League will interest herself in this matter, and report conditions in her own neighborhood, whether favorable or unfavorable, and also on conditions in any other part of the city which may come under her observation.

Those members of the League who, during the summer, live or visit in the suburban districts of Greater New York, can make valuable observations and suggestions on conditions in these places.

On the accompanying Information Card will be found list of subjects upon which information is desired.

The Committee on Streets of the Woman's Municipal League desires reports on these cards, which it asks you to fill out and mail to the office of the League.

Additional cards will be mailed to those willing to undertake this work.

Will you signify your willingness to do this work by sending your name and address to the Chairman of the Committee, at the office of the League?

Information on any matter relating to Streets will be furnished on application, by the Committee.

MRS. GEORGE C. WILDE,
Chairman.

Committee on Streets

Mrs. CHARLES L. GUY, Miss ANNA MAXWELL JONES,
Miss SUSAN MARTIN, Mrs. GORDON WENDELL,
Miss S. AMERICAN,
Ex-off.

INFORMATION DESIRED ABOUT

I. STREET CLEANING.

a. At what hour do ash carts make rounds?

b. Do citizens comply with the law regarding separation of ashes, garbage and rubbish?

c. Private ash cart men—do they comply with the law?

II. STREETS.

a. Needed repairs to pavements.

b. Are street car tracks in proper repair?

III. OBSTRUCTIONS.

a. Number and locality and license number of vehicles left in street at night.

b. Obstructions on street or sidewalk.

The law requires the separation of ashes, garbage and rubbish.

Rubbish may not be put in the area, but the "paper and rubbish card" must be displayed.

No ash cart man is permitted to mix ashes, garbage or rubbish.

Accuracy of information is essential.

In case of complaints of men, or carts, give full information for identification, such as number, letter, name or device on carts, and badge numbers of men.

COMMITTEE ON PARKS

The Committee on Parks wishes to gather information as to the condition and needs of the various parks of the city, with a view to future recommendation and action. In order to do this it will organize a Special Committee on each Park in the city, so far as possible of those living in its immediate neighborhood, in order that the work may be done by those most nearly concerned and with as little expenditure of time as may be. The Park Department is anxious for our co-operation. Such matters as the following are to be noted and reported upon: Condition of walks, grass, shrubbery and path, of ponds, etc., of comfort stations, of drinking fountains, of seats and their number; the habitués; order maintained; play places, etc.

To those willing to serve and help in this most important work, especially for the next six months, report blanks will be sent. The committee will appreciate *your* sending *your* name with address, indicating the Park you desire to report upon.

SADIE AMERICAN
Chairman

All communications should be sent to
WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
R. 701, 21 Park Row

Extract from Minutes of Public Meeting held at the City Club, April 1st

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Dr. Woodbury spoke on "WHAT THE LEAGUE CAN DO TO HELP THE STREET CLEANING DEPARTMENT."

He said: With one thousand miles of streets to clean and ten thousand cubic yards of ash and rubbish to dispose of daily, he had not an easy task. The chief difficulty lies in the disposal of the rubbish. If the matter is properly handled it means $680,000 a year for the city. The League can help to do this and at the same time help to make New York the cleanest city in the world.

The matter of mixing garbage with the rubbish is a serious one and the regulations are constantly transgressed. The city cannot be legislated into goodness, but the League can help to educate it into cleanliness. The two classes to reach are the selfish poor and ignorant who cast rubbish to the street from tenement windows, and the selfish rich who debauch the street cleaners by bribing them to carry off the mixed garbage. Every householder will shortly receive a warning in the form of a card upon which will be printed, in five languages, the ordinance of the Board of Aldermen and the 116th Code (primary separation). These cards will be delivered by a special messenger, who will receive a receipt for them.

The League can help by telling Dr. Woodbury when things go wrong. If a horse is seen going faster than a walk, or there is the least apparent brutality to a horse, he wants to know it. If a street cleaner is seen entering a saloon, he wishes it reported; he wants to keep his men sober.

DISTRICT WORK

The Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch of the Woman's Municipal League

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From High Bridge

Report on what can be done to urge McComb's Dam Bridge trolley line extension. Report on necessity of Comfort Station at entrance to McComb's Dam Bridge. Complaints made to President Haffen as to the condition of three avenues. Success in compelling the garbage contractor to put canvas coverings over his wagons. The circulation of a petition in regard to school extension and improvement. City History Class; average attendance, 65.

From Bedford Park

Report as to successful tree planting. Reports in regard to building of Concourse, Southern Boulevard extension and improvement on two other avenues. Reports on sanitation of Italian quarters, school building and garbage dumps. Success in inducing the New York Central to place ticket agent and sell tickets in downtown station at Bedford Park. Plans for a large public meeting in Botanical Hall.

From Kingsbridge

The New York Central Railroad has, upon the application of the Committee, obviated the dangers of the railroad cut bridge. Committees appointed on Sanitation, Bridges, Highways and Press, and Charter-study class formed. Two board sidewalks laid.

From Tremont

Report from the Fountain Committee. Local Board of Aldermen has granted petition for planting of trees along Washington Avenue.

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW,
Chairman.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. MAY, 1902 No. 2

The Regular Monthly Meetings of the League will be omitted during June, July, August and September. The next meeting will be held the first Tuesday of October.

MARGARET L. CHANLER,
Chairman.

Committee on Ice Water Fountains

After investigation it has seemed wise to co-operate with the Judson Memorial Church in placing one large fountain in Oliver Street, near Chatham Square. The Committee will pay three-fourths of the expense of erecting the fountain and is to place on it the name of The Woman's Municipal League. The Church will be responsible for the other fourth, and for the maintenance of the fountain, furnishing the necessary ice during the summer.

Four small fountains are to be erected, one to be placed on the Riverside Association Building in West 69th Street, another on a Jewish Mission near Broome Street, a third at Young People's Association House East 63d Street. The maintenance of these fountains is to be met by the several associations represented in the buildings. A gentleman has promised to erect and maintain still another.

The raising of money to erect fountains is not so hard as to find those who will support them when installed. The Committee feels this summer's experiments will prove most helpful for future action.

MRS. T. M. DILLINGHAM,
Chairman.

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UNION LABEL TRADES COUNCIL 12

Extracts from the Report of Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secretary of the **National Municipal League,** at the Annual Meeting held in Boston, May 7, 1902.

The dignity of municipal life is beginning to dawn upon the minds of American citizens. The achievements of the past year have been more numerous and far-reaching than in any preceding one. As an illustration of the growing appreciation of the municipal problem I need only cite the country-wide interest in the Greater New York mayoralty campaign. Nor has the interest in the situation abated. Keen eyes and interested ones are watching every move of Mayor Low and Disirict Attorney Jerome and their colleagues. Their successes are rejoiced over, their missteps criticised and discussed.

I think it can be said without the slightest exaggeration that the affairs of New York City are attracting as much attention as any other phase of political activity, city, state or national.

At the same time that business men are going into municipal politics the wage-earner is doing likewise. In many respects the most significant feature of the past year from a municipal standpoint has been the election of labor men to important municipal office. Whatever else these events may indicate they show conclusively that municipal citizens are ignoring party lines to a hitherto unprecedented extent.

The day of mere negative work in municipal affairs is passing. The reformer is not only seeking to destroy the hideous features of municipal evil and corruption, but to build up in their place and stead an enduring structure of substantial achievement. Party lines are being broken up in municipal elections because of this introduction of new and purely municipal issues.

Our municipalities are dotted with organizations devoted to a study and discussions of their needs. An interesting report could be compiled solely with the activities of such bodies as the City History Club, the local leagues of civic improvement, the League for Political Education and the Woman's Municipal League of New York City.

City Hall Committee

The **City Hall Committee** through its various Sub-committees is at work as follows :

The Sub-committee on **Tenements:** (a) Is making preliminary arrangements for a Training Class for Janitors, with a view to dignify and to make the avocation of janitor one of high standing commensurate with its responsibility; instruction will be given in the purpose and meaning of Tenement House law, simple sanitation, methods of cleaning, etc.; (b) Is considering the holding of an exhibit of janitors' appliances in the fall; (c) Is studying tenement conditions in various districts of the city in order to more intelligent action.

The Sub-committee on **Streets:** A report made in regard to a dead cat lying in the street several days brought about greater watchfulness and more rigid regulations on the part of the Departments of Health and Police. Complaints as to disregard of regulations in respect to garbage and rubbish have been given immediate and most courteous attention by the Department on Street Cleaning. An empty lot and broken fence which was a great nuisance to the neighborhood and had been reported by individuals with no result, has within a week been watched, cleaned and steps taken to put the fence in proper condition. Several cases of clogged sewers reported have been given immediate attention by the Department.

The Sub-committee on **Parks:** The suggestion made to Commissioner Willcox that persons asking for May party permits be instructed that they must not throw about papers and débris was accepted and acted on, most excellent regulations were issued by him, which have so far resulted in a much better condition in the parks and less strain on the laborers Saturday and Sunday, and in a sense, on the part of May parties that duties devolved upon them to keep the park which is *their* park, in good condition.

In response to the request in the April Bulletin, thirteen members have undertaken to report upon conditions in the following parks: Central, City Hall, Cooper, Madison Square, Morningside, Mt. Morris, Riverside, Stuyvesent, Thomas Jefferson, Union Square and Washington Square. Many helpful and constructive suggestions have been made which have been submitted to Commissioner Willcox, which he has taken under consideration and some of which he has promised to act on immediately.

The Committee has contributed somewhat to the Anti-Tuberculosis crusade by conferring with Dr. Lederle in regard to the spitting on the walks in the small parks where little children constantly play, whose age renders them most susceptible to contagion. Dr. Lederle was most interested and expressed himself as grateful for the suggestion, and he will take steps to protect children by insisting upon absolute cleanliness of the walks.

The Committee especially request that those spending the summer in outlying districts in the City of New York, as for instance in Long Island, shall report on conditions of streets, garbage, parks, etc., etc.

SADIE AMERICAN,
Chairman.

District Work

The **RIVERSIDE** District of the Woman's Municipal League was organized on May the first. Miss Chanler, Chairman of the meeting, presented reasons for organization, with its scope and work. Mrs. Edward Curtis was made Chairman of the District and Mrs. Satterlee Swartwout, Secretary. Three meetings have since been held at the house of Mrs. Curtis, one of which was addressed by Miss American The various committees are already actively at work.

The Committee on Parks is observing conditions in Central, Mt. Morris, Morningside, Riverside and Sixty-fourth Street Parks.

The Committee on Streets has taken steps to have put into proper condition a sidewalk which recently caused an accident to a pedestrian.

The Committee on Tenements is studying tenements of the District and the Tenement House law with a view to earnest work in the early fall and is considering taking an active part in the work of organizing a Training Class for Janitors, proposed by the Central Committee.

The Committee on Transportation has been organized.

The Committee on Ice Water Fountains has raised the entire sum necessary for one fountain, one hundred and seventy-five dollars. Much interest in the movement has been aroused by their conferring with and securing the co-operation of the various ministers of the District.

Mrs. Edward Curtis,
Chairman.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. JUNE, 1902 No. 3

The Regular Monthly Meetings of the League will be omitted during the summer months. The next meeting will be held the first Tuesday of October.

MARGARET L. CHANLER,
Chairman.

Committee on Public Comfort Stations

The Committee has held two meetings and has studied the question in co-operation with a representative of the Health Protective Association. This Association has investigated the public conveniences throughout the city and its connection with our Committee will mean much to the success of the work.

Certain recommendations have been presented to President Cantor, but as yet no action has been taken by him except a promise to put screens in the woman's section at City Hall Park.

The Public Stations in the parks have been left in the hands of the Committee on Parks and Sub-Committees on this important matter have been appointed in the Local District Committees.

GRACE H. DODGE,
Chairman.

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Room 701, 21 Park Row.

City Hall Committee

The Sub-Committee on **Streets**: Eight complaints have been sent in to the Department of Street Cleaning, two to the Police Department and three to the Department of Health, and have received immediate attention.

The Sub-Committee on **Parks**: The following recommendations have been made to Commissioner Willcox for parks in Manhattan:

City Hall Park: Attention has been called to certain needed changes in Comfort Station.

Cooper Park: That benches be supplied, so that the Peter Cooper Monument may not be used to sit upon.

Madison Square: Attention has been called to the very bad condition of asphalt paths.

Morningside Park: That more seats be placed in the park; that some of the benches be distributed so as to be put in more sheltered places and that some be put on one landing of long stairway.

Riverside Park: That receptacles be placed for papers and refuse, that the condition between the street and Viaduct be improved and that willows be planted on northern slope to save the land.

Stuyvesant Park: That more benches be placed in the park.

Thomas Jefferson Park: That seats be placed for women and babies pending a permanent improvement in the park.

Washington Square: That the entrance be safeguarded and that the police give better attention to keeping the park clear of undesirable characters.

On the Boulevard, that trees are not sufficiently protected from injury by horses that have already destroyed a number of them.

SADIE AMERICAN,

Chairman.

District Work

HIGH BRIDGE Branch of the Woman's Municipal League

THE BOYS' IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

This organization, which was formed on April 30, has a membership of seventy-seven. There are nine companies of workers each company having a captain and lieutenant who report once a week to their Inspectors, who are women residing in the company's allotted district, and every two weeks they report to their President.

It is no small thing to have stopped seventy-seven boys from littering the streets, and when we consider that they are making others more careful in the throwing of paper and rubbish in the street, it requires but little imagination to realize that their influence will be very far-reaching. In one district the captain of a company has *entirely stopped* a storekeeper from throwing rubbish and paper in the street. On another avenue the boys waited a whole week for a certain fish vender, and when he appeared made him pick up and take away in his wagon a pile of clam shells which he had deposited on the curb the previous week. An interview with Commissioner Woodbury in their behalf was recently secured and now the boys know they have his personal indorsement as well as the support of the Street Cleaning Department. This has been of incalcuable moral benefit, for it has infused an added interest and courage in their work. The Commissioner sent them copies of the ordinance recently adopted by the Board of Aldermen prohibiting the throwing of certain articles in the street, which they have distributed among offending householders. They also go armed with a copy, and now know exactly when they are within their rights in demanding that the refuse which formerly littered the streets be put into barrels, which they themselves furnish. To their credit be it said that never have they been accused of impertinent or offensive conduct. They go about their

work in a business-like, manly way that commands the respect of all. They have some trials in the way of flagrant violations of the law by the Italian occupants of tenements in one district, but they have serene faith in their cards and in the admonition of Commissioner Woodbury that "*This law will be strictly enforced*," and know it will take much patience, perseverance and pluck to right the wrongs of years. The improved condition of the streets and vacant lots is sufficient proof that they are thoroughly in earnest and are working with gratifying results.

Fortnightly meetings are held, when the boys present their reports, and each one is encouraged to give his experience and ideas not only upon street cleaning, but other municipal matters. The few who have attended these meetings are surprised at the intelligence and acumen shown by the boys and their eagerness to learn of the city government.

Next winter a simple course of study, with the Charter for a text-book, will be taken up, and the boys will be encouraged to debate and to discuss municipal questions that come within their comprehension. The women who have this work in hand are confident of satisfactory results, feeling sure that at some not far distant day they will be a great power for good or evil, and have a voice in all things pertaining to the public welfare.

Anna Lawrence Brown,
President.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. AUGUST, 1902 No. 4

The Regular Monthly Meetings of the League will be omitted during the summer months. The next meeting will be held the first Tuesday of October.

MARGARET L. CHANLER,
Chairman

* PERSONAL TAX, 1902

	PERSONAL ESTATE VALUATION	ASSESSED UPON WOMEN
Manhattan	$140,525,501	$24,665,640
The Bronx	9,401,905	553,550
Brooklyn	52,027,599	4,506,080
Queens	5,297,405	788,400
Richmond	5,665,275	964,050
Total	$212,917,685	$31,477,720

** It is important to estimate the Real Estate Tax paid by the women of Greater New York, but with our present office equipment this is impossible, as the amounts have to be selected from over one hundred volumes, which are open to the public fifteen days.*

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Room 701, 21 Park Row.

From the foregoing table it will be seen the final assessments for taxation on the personal estates of women in Greater New York amount to $31,477,720. This is about 14¾ per cent. of the whole personal valuation. The tabulated form represents personal or **individual** tax exclusive of estates, banks, firms and corporations and non-residents, which must contain hundreds of women.

Personal taxes are levied upon contents of **houses and stables (not horses), money in banks not savings, railroad bonds, bonds and mortgages, bills receivable, plate and wearing apparel.**

Bank stock, deposit in savings banks, railroad stock, incorporated loan associations and life insurance are all exempt from taxation. Just debts are deducted from assessed valuations.

This amount of $31,477,720 is owned by 2,291 women (one of whom is assessed for a million), when the Census gives the number of women in Greater New York as a round million.

Personal taxes are applied to the general budget and have been levied for at least three-quarters of a century. The personal tax this year is four points lower than last, and were it imposed upon all women in Greater New York, each would pay about seventy cents, which would represent thirty-one dollars' worth of personal property per capita. There are probably very few women in Greater New York who would not be willing to acknowledge that their wearing apparel is worth that amount.

There are no comprehensive lists for either men or women in the possession of the Tax Department. The process of assessment given in "Finances of New York" by Durand in 1898 is still followed:

"There is no provision in the State for listing personal property by the owners and in fact, no attempt is usually made to secure any sort of an inventory of the taxpayer's property. A considerable part of the process of assessing personalty is indeed mere haphazard. The Deputy Assessor selects names from the City Directory, using 'his judgment—from his experience, and from what he has passed through in regard to the affidavits of those who correct or swear off—in placing the sums opposite each individual name.'"

It will be seen from the table of investments which are exempt from personal tax that persons who wish to avoid paying taxes on their capital may do so by investing in non-taxable property.

It is surely the duty of each citizen either to do this or to see that the Tax Department is apprised of the amount on which she should be assessed.

The Children's School Farm

DEWITT CLINTON PARK, 53D STREET AND 11TH AVENUE

The children's school farm was put in operation to prove by an object lesson on a small scale the softening effect of a close relationship with nature, and to teach the children by becoming property owners themselves how to respect the property of others. The plots planted, numbered and cared for by each little farmer who knows that the products are at his own disposal, has not only awakened dignity and carefulness, but generosity and a desire to save and open a bank account.

Helping to prepare ground and bring a garden of Eden out of a dumping place of lime, rags, wire and stones has opened great possibilities. Making furrows with the end of a stick, marking between rows of corn and beans with clam shells because of lack of funds to buy implements, has taught its own lesson. In three weeks' time from a howling mob of unruly, reckless lawbreakers we have become respectable, property owning citizens entertaining City Fathers and prominent City Mothers with civility, taking as legitimate a pride in exhibiting landed possessions and fine vegetables as any gentleman might in his conservatories.

Through the courtesy of Park Commissioner Willcox, 114 x 84 feet in Dewitt Clinton Park were turned over to me that the experiment might be made. This ground had to be cleared away, leveled and divided into 114 beds each 3 x 6 feet. The whole was enclosed in a wooden paling, and Commissioner Partridge has established a regulation police post here to prevent destruction. Besides this garden, space was given for a tent with a seating capacity of about two hundred, where Dr. Powell has given us a most interesting and instructive lecture on nature study.

On July 26th the beds were planted and now bear crops which are a joy to hundreds of children besides their owners.

On August 5th Commissioner Willcox formally opened the park, and since then we have been visited by members of City Departments, Board of Education, representatives from municipal and philanthropic organizations, while inquiries come from people studying city problems all over the country, who consider this an important experiment—the first and only one of which I am aware.

In laying out Dewitt Clinton Park Mr. Willcox promises to incorporate in it some of the ideas which the farm represents, that the park be not entirely for beauty, but for exercise, recreation and the acquiring of knowledge as well.

If another year, having passed out of the experimental stage, the farm is taken up by the Educational Department of the city the good—moral, educational and municipal—which may result is beyond computation. Thus far the work has been carried on by me with the help of my faithful assistant Miss Bennett, who has been upon the ground all day and every day. We have received no appropriation from the city. Private contributions of $250 prevented the failure of the scheme, but we are now crippled for funds with which to carry the work through the remainder of the season.

MRS. HENRY PARSONS.

Committee on Ice Water Fountains

Fountains in operation: Riverside Association Building, 261 West 69th Street; Mariners' Temple, Chatham Square and Oliver Street; Young People's Association House, 342 East 63d Street; Mission of the Sea and Land, 61 Henry Street; People's Home Church, 543 East 11th Street, and Hope Chapel, 341 East 4th Street.

A memorial fountain, to be maintained by the donor, is in process of construction at the West Side Branch of the University Settlement, 38 King Street.

MRS. T. M. DILLINGHAM,
Chairman.

City Hall Committee

Of the nine requests made in June by the Sub-Committee on **Parks** to Commissioner Willcox, the following have been complied with:

Benches have been supplied in Cooper Park. Seven tents and a number of settees have been placed in Thomas Jefferson Park. The bad condition of asphalt paths in Madison Square has been remedied.

SADIE AMERICAN,
Chairman.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. DECEMBER, 1902 No. 5

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, at 2.15 p. m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

MR. THOMAS A. FULTON,
Secretary of the Citizens' Union,

will speak on "Mayor Low's Administration."

MRS. CARLETON,
Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING.

(Extract from Minutes.)

CITY CLUB, November 11, 1902.

Miss Chanler in the chair.

After the minutes of the preceding meeting the Treasurer reported expenses for the year $1,332.26; balance on hand November 1, $69.24. Reports were read from Local Improvement districts. At Miss Chanler's request it was voted that the report of the **Morrisania Local Improvement District** be printed and sent to the Women's Municipal Leagues throughout the country.

The **Ice Water Fountain Committee** reported the raising of $1,584.95 and the erection of eight fountains. Miss Chanler said in this connection that the Church Temperance Society had made an unsuccessful effort to have the city erect drinking fountains. They were told by municipal officers it would be many years before this could be done.

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Room 701, 21 Park Row.

The **City Hall Committee** reported on **Streets**, **Tenements**, **Parks**, and on **Public Comfort Stations**. As activities have not been resumed this autumn the details of these reports may be found in back numbers of the BULLETIN.

Miss Bond moved a vote of thanks to the City Club for the use of their rooms, and it was moved and carried that the League should make a Christmas donation for the employees.

Miss Dodge spoke of the great opportunities the League has before it and of the friendly attitude of the City toward the League.

Extract from Chairman's Report

The annual report of the Executive shall date from the first of November last year, which was before my connection with the League began, and I find no material from which I can quote beyond the record of the Woman's Campaign Committee, by whose exertions $20,000 were contributed to the Citizens' Union Campaign Fund and a pamphlet setting forth certain evils of the Police System was put into the hands of every voter.

Unfortunately, Miss Lowell and many who had worked with her resigned from the Executive Board when the arduous campaign was over, but, in spite of this irrevocable loss, sufficient enthusiasm was shown on the part of the three hundred members to call for more permanent and effective organization. Parlor meetings were held which resulted in monthly meetings at the City Club, and in February, 1902, a new constitution was drawn up, submitted and accepted in its present form, which succeeded the constitution bearing the date of 1898. That constitution provides for a **Central Committee,** which is to be elected for the first time this afternoon, but which has been in operation by virtue of its previous power to add to its number, and the by-laws, which were also formulated during the past winter. These by-laws called for four standing committees, which must be appointed immediately after this election. They call for a larger number of active workers than have hitherto put themselves at the disposal of the Executive.

The legislative work done last year, when the League was called upon to denounce conditions in the Park Avenue tunnel, showed what is expected of us, and there must be members especially fitted for this branch of civic devotion who will hold their own committee meetings and have their own permanent history.

SUPPLEMENT

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

DECEMBER, 1902

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION HOUSE

342 East 63d Street

One of eight Fountains erected by the

ICE WATER FOUNTAIN COMMITTEE

THE SONG OF THE DRINKING CUPS

They hung us here by the fountain's spout,
Two iron cups, where its stream pours out;
And here the crowds of the East Side street,
Who are thirsty and faint from the tenement's heat,
All classes and kinds and ages of life—
The toddling babe, the pale faced wife,
The whistling boy, the workman grim—
All lift to their lips our dripping brim,
The noblest, the vilest, the worst, the best,
At the waters of life is a welcome guest.

—F. S. J.

From New York Tribune.

PEOPLE'S HOME CHURCH
543 East 11th Street

New York, November 19, 1902.

Mrs. T. H. Dillingham, Chairman.

Dear Madam:

The workers of the People's Home Church and Settlement passed a resolution last Monday thanking The Woman's Municipal League for their kindness in furnishing us with an Ice Water Fountain this summer. Will you kindly convey this fact to them? To this I wish to add my own thanks for the same.

Most cordially yours,

E. L. Fox.

The BULLETIN grew out of a desire not to send more than one notice a month to the membership, both because we would not weary their interest and because the addressing of seven hundred postals and circulars takes ten hours. The BULLETIN costs about $15 a month, and therefore requires contributions from those who enjoy it.

The work of the office has brought it into contact with **nine** out of the fifteen City Departments.

Does it not justify Mrs. Lowell's belief that the City needed the Woman's Municipal League if the last ten months have given it direct communication with Police, Fire, Water Supply and Lighting, Street Cleaning, Parks, Docks and Ferries, Tenement House, Health, and Taxes and Assessments? Here again we need workers to complete statistics and enlarge our usefulness.

Those of you who were here last month will remember that the League at large was unprepared to take any part in the election of Assemblymen and State Senators. This unpreparedness resulted in what was being done falling upon the office and six members. Had there been sixty, much more could have been accomplished, and I hope that next October is a month which you will all give to the city, that you may work within a few blocks of your own residence and see that your neighbors understand the difference between good and bad nominations.

The **Campaign Committee** does not report $20,000 contributed to the election funds of the Citizens' Union, but it does report the printing of 24,000 appeals to register, which were circulated in the election districts of two candidates, both of whom were elected. It also reports 1,000 posters, urging voters to send men to Albany who "Believe in Home Rule," who "Do not serve a Party," and who think the "City's taxes should be spent in the city." The expenses of printing for the campaign have been met by subscription.

It remains for me to briefly point out what the League has before it this year: Increase all along the line of undertakings, of organization, of affiliation, of expense and, above all, of time given to the city. Very few of us have gotten to the point where time spent on the city comes next to the claims of our families and our church. There are a million women in New York City. If only one per cent. of them worked for the good of the city a half day a week my annual report would be so long that it would have to be submitted in writing.

Annual Election

Miss Dodge then took the chair, and Mrs. P. R. Reynolds reported for the Nominating Committee the following ticket, which was unanimously elected :

Officers

President . . .	Miss Chanler
Vice-President . .	Mrs. Herbert Parsons
Treasurer . . .	Miss Grace H. Dodge
Secretary . . .	Mrs. Will Carleton

Directors

Miss American
Mrs. J. L. Carbonell
Mrs. Edward Curtis
Miss K. S. Day
Miss Helen de Peyster
Mrs. Camden C. Dike
Miss Dreier
Miss Evans
Mrs. W. M. Jackson
Miss C. S. Leverich
Mrs. F. W. Longfellow
Mrs. Charles H. Parkhurst
Mrs. Thomas R. Slicer
Mrs. George Alex. Strong
Mrs. Gordon Wendell

Standing Committees

Finance	Miss Dodge
Organization . . .	Miss Chanler
Publication . . .	Mrs. Carleton
Legislation . . .	Miss Dreier
City Hall . . .	Miss American

Special Committees

Immigration . . .	Miss de Peyster
Affiliation . . .	Miss Chanler
By-Laws . . .	Mrs. Longfellow

There will be a parlor meeting at the residence of Mrs. Frederick Nathan, 162 West 86th Street, on Monday, December 8th, at 3 p.m , under the auspices of the Household Economic Association. Subject : A Symposium on "Clothes."

Under the auspices of the Consumers' League a parlor meeting will be held at the residence of Mrs. John Bates Clark, 616 West 113th Street, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers : Professor John B. Clark and Mrs. Florence Kelley.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch

(Borough of the Bronx)

OF THE

Woman's Municipal League

of New York City

NOVEMBER 10, 1902

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MORRISANIA LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BRANCH, BOROUGH OF THE BRONX, OF THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK CITY, NOVEMBER 10, 1902.

The Morrisania Local Improvement District, as defined by the City Charter, embraces all of the Borough of the Bronx west of the Bronx River, which territory originally consisted of about fifty separate villages, many of which still retain their local charter and individuality, while others have grown together into general communities. The organization of this local district into a branch of the Woman's Municipal League was begun in November, 1901, and out of eleven communities visited or corresponded with, five decided that such a woman's organization would be a benefit to the place, and prior to February 1st had organized with a membership varying from 10 to 35. The scheme of organization is somewhat as follows: Each locality has a membership and an executive committee with chairman, secretary and treasurer and is called a Division of the Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch of the Woman's Municipal League. The several chairmen and secretaries of these Divisions constitute a Committee, called the General Committee of the Morrisania Local Improvement District, the chairman of which is elected by the several division chairmen, which committee governs the whole district and is responsible to the Central Committee of the League for its own and its Divisions' actions. This General Committee takes for its support one-fifth of the dues which the members of the Divisions pay the several Division treasurers and the remainder is used by the latter for local purposes. When the several

committees willing to organize had done so, a meeting of the Chairmen and Secretaries was called February 11th and the General Committee began its work with the discussion and adoption of by-laws. Since this meeting the General Committee has held regular monthly meetings, with the exception of the summer months, at all of which reports of the work undertaken by the five Divisions were submitted and also reports of the two Standing Committees, one on Parks and another on the Boys' Improvement Society.

Besides struggling with the dry study of the New York Charter and the still more laborious work of framing by-laws, the Divisions, which now have an aggregate membership of 134, have agitated the questions of police protection, road improvements, public comfort stations, additional trolley lines, railroad improvements, sanitation, school extension, park improvements, the correction of tenement house evils, and the general physical betterment of the district.

Petitions in regard to electric traction in the Hudson River Railroad Tunnel, early closing of Bronx Department stores, and the building of a road across Jerome Park Reservoir, have been circulated throughout the district and a large number of signatures secured.

Not the least interesting part of the work of this branch has been the interviews with city officials who have frequently adopted our suggestions as to local improvements and in many cases have asked our co-operation in special directions.

The educational value of the work has been remarkably telling, and familiarity with the proper methods of administrative departments has increased in proportion to our energy and courage in dealing with various questions of local or general improvement. I shall give only a brief summary of what has actually been accomplished during the working months of the district organization's existence and it will be understood that as in all reform movements much energy has been expended without tangible results, and that many plans have been formulated that are in various stages short of consummation.

The following is a summary of what has been actually accomplished by the respective Divisions:

HIGHBRIDGE DIVISION.

MRS. CHARLES HILTON BROWN, CHAIRMAN.

The Highbridge Division has succeeded in securing through city officials:

(1). The fencing in of lots dangerously below grade.

(2) The covering of the overflowing garbage carts.

(3) The removal of dead animals.

(4) Through their own efforts the women have formed a City History Class with an attendance of eighty public school children;

(5) Have organized a Boys' Improvement Society. They have circulated a petition requesting the sewering of Summit Avenue prior to repavement, and also one requesting improvement in school conditions, and have directed much effort towards securing a trolley line across McComb's Dam Bridge.

BEDFORD PARK DIVISION.

MISS NILES, CHAIRMAN.

The Division at Bedford Park has prevailed upon city officials:

(1) To prevent children suffering from contagious diseases from returning to school before being pronounced cured;

(2) To stop the throwing of refuse near the public school.

(3) They have assisted in having a special policeman detailed for Moshulu Parkway;

(4) Have prevailed upon the Park Department to clear the Moshulu Parkway Ravine and to forbid the dumping of refuse into the same; and

(5) Have compelled the city to clear and fence in several vacant lots.

(6) Through the members' influence a ticket agent has been placed on the downtown side of the Harlem Railroad Station.

In addition a mass meeting has been held to create interest in the League and its work.

KINGSBRIDGE DIVISION.

MRS. F. M. TODD, CHAIRMAN.

The following has been accomplished by the Kingsbridge Division through city officials:

(1) Board walks laid on Sedgwick Avenue.

(2) New steps built from Perot Street to Boston Avenue.

(3) Sidewalks on Kingsbridge Avenue repaired.

(4) Also road crossing on Marble Hill at foot of steps.

(5) The dumping of garbage in open lots entirely stopped.

(6) Three conveniences built for 100 workmen on Broadway sewer.

(7) Sewer connections built, under the charge of a special sanitary squad, as rapidly as houses are being moved back from Broadway.

(8) Repairs in breaks of two sewer pipes on Marble Hill made.

(9) Emptying of sewerage into the creek stopped.

(10) The abolishment of unconnected and private sewers.

(11) Through United States officials a defect remedied in the draw of the Spuyten Duyvil Ship Canal.

(12) Through Hudson River Railroad officials a railing necessary to the safety of passing school children was constructed over the Church Street Railroad cut bridge, and

(13) Unsightly remnants of an old railroad bridge removed.

Through the women's own efforts:

(14) A class formed for the study of the City Charter;

(15) A boys' improvement society organized; and a mass meeting held to arouse greater interest in the League's work.

TREMONT DIVISION.

MRS. WILLIAM C. EMERY, CHAIRMAN.

The Tremont Division effected through city officials:

(1) The reclaiming of a small park.

(2) An appropriation toward the planting of trees on two miles of Washington Avenue.

(3) The restoring of the American Flag to its proper position in a fire engine house.

(4) The compelling of one of the trolley lines to re-lay a bicycle path which the line had destroyed.

(5) The placing of a drinking fountain in front of the Municipal Building.

(6) The women themselves have raised $50 toward another drinking fountain.

(7) Have started a Boys' Improvement Society.

(8) Have successfully prevented shopkeepers from throwing refuse on Tremont Avenue, and

(9) Have devoted much time to the study of the New York Charter.

MORRISANIA DIVISION.

DR. ANNE LANGWORTHY WAITE, CHAIRMAN.

The Morrisania Division (Morrisania is one of the localities embraced in the General Morrisania Local Improvement District) succeeded, by applying to city officials:

(1) In compelling the Union Railway to lay a proper crossing over unfinished tracks.

(2) They have prevailed upon the Park Department to clean and paint comfort stations; and

(3) To erect a drinking fountain in Crotona Park.

(4) The women have met with gratifying results in their campaign against mosquitoes;

(5) Have formed a girls' club with several classes; and

(6) Have persuaded six of the prominent Bronx Department stores to close at 10 o'clock instead of 11:30 o'clock on Saturday nights.

A successful mass meeting was held for the purpose of securing a new school site.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARKS.

MRS. N. L. BRITTON, CHAIRMAN.

The Standing Committee on Parks has held a successful public meeting to which all employees of the Park Department were

invited, to further public interest in the proper maintenance of the various parks in the district. The nine members representing respectively the nine important parks in the district have made the acquaintance of the inspectors and foremen in their respective parks, and have regularly reported the conditions obtaining in Van Cortlandt, Crotona, Claremont, Echo and McComb's Dam Park and New York Botanical Garden.

In addition the Committee has contended strenuously for better police protection in the parks and has made valuable suggestions to those city departments closely connected with the parks, which have been favorably received and frequently acted upon.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON BOYS' IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

MRS. CHARLES H. BROWN, CHAIRMAN.

The Boys' Improvement Society was formed in June, 1902, for the purpose of training public school boys in the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. The intention is to organze subdivisions of the Society in every district division. Three such subdivisions have been formed, one each in Highbridge, Kingsbridge and Tremont, one of which (Highbridge) has a membership of 73. The particular activity of the boys has been directed toward the physical improvement of the district, such as cleaning streets and clearing up vacant lots, and in keeping them clean and orderly. Each subdivision has a military organization and the sustained interest of the members and their sincere and effective work have quite fulfilled the expectations of the organizers. The Committee confidently expect that the Society will become a permanent and effective force for better civic conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW.

Chairman Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch of the Woman's Municipal League.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. JANUARY, 1903 No. 6

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, January 8th, at 2.15 p. m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

MR. FREDERICK W. LONGFELLOW

will speak on "The Pennsylvania Tunnel."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB DECEMBER 9, 1902.

Mr. Thomas A. Fulton spoke on "Mayor Low's Administration."

Mr. Fulton said in part: He was not here as a politician, but merely as a man to state facts as he sees them. The public takes little trouble to acquaint itself with plain facts, but sees far more clearly what has been left undone than what has been accomplished. Referring to the review of Mayor Low's administration published by the Citizens' Union, Mr. Fulton pointed out the remarkable showing in many departments, emphasizing that the Law Department has collected twice as much money as has been collected in four years. In ten months more than $740,000 has been saved in water taxes; in some cases there were arrearages where water rents had not been paid in twelve years. The death rate is a yardstick of good government, and the death rate has been lower this year than ever before.

It is such undertakings as the drinking fountains, the small parks in congested districts, comfort stations and public baths for the pleasure and convenience of the people, and of which

the public in other sections of the city is not apt to hear, that count in a good administration.

He suggested that a committee from the League personally visit the Departments of Public Charities, Corrections and the Islands, and see the changes that have been made under the present administration. He also appealed to the League to use its influence in securing clean men to represent the various districts of the city in the aldermanic chamber—"men who talk little, think much, and vote straight." Another way in which the assistance of the League may be of great value in securing good government is by going to these men and saying to them: "This city has served you well; you have made your living in this locality; now it is for *you* to serve the locality and the city."

Mr. George Pfaehler, Jr., of the Benchmen's Association of Retail Butchers, gave a graphic account of the abuses of the "Paddy's Market" of the upper West and lower East Side of the city Saturday evenings. The cheap rates appeal to the people of these localities, notwithstanding the unwholesomeness of the meat offered for sale. Upon examination much of it has been proved to be chemically treated before appearing in these push-cart markets. The police say the matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health, and the Department of Health refers complaints to the inspectors. The inspectors have ignored complaints, therefore the association he represented petitioned the League to take up the matter and direct the attention of police and the Department of Health to existing conditions.

In response to this appeal the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Woman's Municipal League investigate the conditions under which meat is sold in this city as represented by the Benchmen's Association of Retail Butchers, and that a committee wait upon the proper authorities in order to correct this abuse should the investigation make such action advisable.

In Prison or Court

The census of the Tombs Prison on this date, shows forty-six women incarcerated there, charged with different grades of crime. In three cases the charge is homicide and in two of these three cases the homicide was the killing of their own babies.

A particulary pathetic case, is that of a very pretty young Irish girl, now awaiting trial on a charge of infanticide. Deserted

by the father of her child, she in a fit of insanity, threw the baby out of the window of the house where she was employed, a few short hours after its birth. The poor woman was unattended by a single person, and her story melted even the hearts of the hardened policemen who were in duty bound to arrest her. Certain formalities in the machinery of the law must be gone through, but it is not at all likely that she will suffer any more punishment than the anguish she must have endured on coming to her senses. It is confidently expected that the District Attorney will recommend her discharge in time to enable her to spend Christmas with the numerous friends who have lately come to her aid.

At a public inspection of the new Tombs Prison held on December 17th, many visitors expressed keen disappointment on finding that no provision had been made in the fine new building with its steam heat and electric lights for the female prisoners, it being given over entirely to the males. The present women's prison is located in the court-yard of the old Tombs, and has since its erection up to the present year, been designated as the "New Prison." This appellation may have been proper enough with the old Tombs for comparison, but it has nothing in the way of heat, light or other conveniences that are to be found in the new modern structure now going up on the old site, one-half of which is now in use.

Christmas Day, however, brought a ray of glad sunshine to these unfortunate women when a dinner of turkey and cranberry sauce together with plenty of vegetables and side dishes and ending with mince pie, was served them. Volunteer singers entertained them in the morning, and prison discipline was also relaxed as far as possible during the day.

Much difficulty is met with by any one seeking information regarding prisoners awaiting trial, because of a mantle of protection which it has been found necessary to throw around them; for it the "runner" abuse is responsible: runners or solicitors who, in order to gain access to prisoners, pose as missionaries, making it difficult for those in charge to distinguish between a bona-fide missionary and one of these unscrupulous persons.

District Work

THE HEIGHTS Branch of the Woman's Municipal League of New York city has a membership of nearly a hundred. There is

a President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chairmen of the following committees: The Committee on **Public Schools**, the Committee on **Libraries**, the Committee on **Public Safety**, and the Committee on **Trees, Fountains and Window-Boxes**, and Chairmen on the three **Assembly** Districts constituting the **Local Improvement District** of the **Heights.**

Arrangements have been made for public conferences to be held in the First and Second Assembly Districts. It is the intention to co-operate with the workers in the various Settlements, Kindergartens and other philanthropic institutions, and through them to arouse the civic interest of the people in these districts. Special investigation into the **tenement house** conditions has been made with special officers.

The interest aroused through the Committee on **Public Schools** in our District has resulted in many improvements. Two of our oldest schools were during the past summer painted and kalsomined. New skylights were also placed in one building to light and ventilate two dark rooms.

Our Committee on **Public Safety** has given special attention to the placing of Public Comfort Stations in some of the crowded centres of the District.

The Local Improvement Society of **The Heights** has the advantage of embracing within its area people of all classes. This condition means that we are given great opportunities which we hope to equal.

MARGARET D. DREIER,
Recording Secretary.

December 18, 1902.

Hereafter the regular monthly meeting of the **Woman's Municipal League** will be held on the first **Thursday** instead of the first Tuesday of the month, except when that date falls upon a holiday.

The Annual Meeting of the **National Purity Alliance** will be held on January 10th at 7.30 o'clock at Friends' Seminary, 226 East 16th Street.

The annual reports will be presented, and there will be addresses by the President, Dr. O. Edward Janney, of Baltimore, and the Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer.

Mrs. Douglas Robinson will have a Parlor Meeting in the interest of the **Consumers' League at her house,** 422 Madison Avenue, on January 9th, 1903, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. FEBRUARY, 1903 No. 7

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, February 5th, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

MR. WESLEY C. BUSH

will speak on "Tenement Houses."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB JANUARY 8, 1903

Mr. F. W. Longfellow addressed the meeting on the subject of Municipal Transportation Franchises, with particular reference to the recent tunnel grant to the Pennsylvania R. R. After explaining the general character of franchises to construct and maintain surface and sub-surface railways on municipal property, he showed that the most important considerations from an economical point of view were the period for which the privilege was granted and the compensation exacted. He then outlined the varied policy of European and American cities in granting such privileges, showing that in foreign cities they had been conferred for short periods and for a generous return, in startling contrast to the profligacy of American municipalities, where, with some exceptions, most valuable rights had, up to very recent times, been conferred for indefinite periods, and little or no compensation.

He showed, by numerous examples, that New York had been no less shortsighted than lesser cities in this respect, and stated that it was generally believed that if in the past all municipal privileges had been granted for reasonably limited periods and for a fair return, the tax budget would be from a quarter to a third less.

All Communications should be sent to **THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,**
Room 701, 21 Park Row.

Mr. Longfellow then explained the excellent restrictive provisions of the present charter, and also called attention to the policy of the United States Government in offering a street railway franchise in Manilla, Philippines, for fifty years, with a limitation on the fare and a return based on the net earnings, to be readjusted each twenty-five-year period.

The terms of the Pennsylvania Railroad franchise were then discussed and differentiated from the local street railway franchises and the reason why the privilege was not limited in time explained.

The speaker concluded by saying that the average yearly return to the city of nearly $100,000, in addition to vast commercial advantages, for a right to use a space of no value for any other purposes was, in his judgment, the best bargain the city had ever made, and that, aside from commercial considerations, the fact that so valuable a grant should have been conferred solely upon its merits, and without the suspicion of a scandal, was a moral victory which would be far-reaching in its influence for better civic conditions.

Conference

A conference of those interested in work among immigrants was held under the auspices of the Woman's Municipal League, at 14 East 66th Street, January 15th. Miss Chanler, President of the League, presided. Among those present were Hermann Handrich, Chancellor of the Swiss Consulate; Rev. Paul Sommerlatte, Harbor Missionary, Ellis Island, for German and Scandinavian immigrants; Mr. and Mrs. Lovejoy, and Dr. Robbins, of the Italian Missionary Society; Dr. Edward Pisko, of the Austrian Society; David Blaustein; and the Misses E. and H. de Peyster.

Mrs. Lovejoy told of the Italian Society's work in preventing immigrants from being fleeced by unscrupulous boarding-house keepers, and said that at least $10,000 a year is needed to enable the society to continue its present work. Dr. Pisko told of the Austrian Society's work in maintaining a boarding-house—free for those who could not pay—and asked the co-operation of the Woman's Municipal League in raising funds to continue the work. Mr. Handrich spoke about the Swiss immigrants; Dr. Blaustein of the Russians and Roumanians; and Dr. Sommerlatte urged the founding of a school for farm laborers that would at the same time supply the demand for good farm labor in all parts of the country and relieve the over-population of the city.

Committee on Legislation

The following bills introduced into the State Legislature have been endorsed by the Legislative Committee:

The first is the bill introduced by Mr. John Hill Morgan into the Assembly for a Children's Court in Brooklyn, and the appointment of an additional Special Sessions Judge for such Court. It is hardly necessary to emphasize the importance of this bill. We believe that such a court, combined with the work of probation officers, and the separation of young offenders from hardened criminals and the indeterminate sentence, will work for the more humane enforcement of laws, for the protection of society, and the moral improvement of its offenders. The next step, we trust, will be the introduction of a bill for the payment of probation officers.

The bill introduced by Mr. Peter P. Sherry into the Assembly for the establishment of a Recreation Pier at Hudson River and 17th Street. This is certainly one of the best ways to ameliorate the condition of those confined in close tenements during the summer.

The bill introduced by Mr. Geo. E. Munroe into the Assembly making judgments for wages of domestic servants a lien upon salary and income. All who believe in just payment for services rendered must gladly co-operate in the passage of this bill.

The Committee also sent a letter to Mr. Horace E. White, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Cities, to put itself on record as entirely in sympathy with the action of the societies who have asked a postponement in regard to the bill for free distribution of coal. Such measures are more apt to pauperize than to benefit, as it is impossible to secure a just distribution. Several depots where coal could be purchased at small price would be of inestimable benefit.

The Committee received a request from the City Club, asking the League to secure signatures of lawyers for the passage of the bill introducing the so-called Massachusetts ballot. The Committee asks the members of the League to inform themselves as carefully as possible on the proposed improvement of the ballot law.

The Committee is waiting to hear from the Tenement House Committee of the League before sending its vigorous protest against the bills introduced in the Senate and Assembly to amend the present Tenement House Law. The Committee, however, calls the attention of the League to the warning published in the last issue of "Charities," and given below.

"The bills strike, and are intended to strike, at the essential features of the law. If adopted, they would permit the erection in Brooklyn and in the Bronx of houses such as have made certain parts of Manhattan Island justly infamous. They would take away from tenants protection from fire, from infection, from indecencies; they would restore to speculative builders and buyers of tenement-house property opportunities for exploiting their wage-earning tenants; they would increase the death rate and increase the number of dark and uninhabitable rooms; they would lessen the chance of recovery from illness, and they would promote all of those forms of vice, disease, and destitution which have been so long recognized as a direct result of the housing conditions in the older part of New York City."

MARGARET D. DREIER, *Chairman.*

In Prison or Court

There are, at the present time, forty-two women in the Tombs Prison, awaiting trial on various charges.

During the past month fourteen women have been tried or have pleaded guilty in General Sessions. Of these, only one received a sentence to State's Prison, the case being that of a wife who had killed her husband during a quarrel. A plea of manslaughter was accepted by the State and the woman sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in Auburn. In most of the cases sentence was suspended, after a plea of guilty had been entered. This is done where the prisoner can secure immediate employment, or has friends to whom she can go, who have shown themselves competent to take care of her. It may be said here that very few women are sent to the Tombs from the Police Courts to await trial in General Sessions who are not more or less guilty. The Magistrates seem to exercise greater care with prisoners of the gentler sex, for hardly a day passes but that three or four men are discharged in General Sessions, after being in prison a week and sometimes a month, against whom there is no legal evidence. The Magistrates are prone to throw the responsibility, in doubtful cases, upon the higher Court.

A remarkable case was tried in Part Two of General Sessions last week, which brought to the minds of many the terse, if somewhat irreverent remark ascribed to that brilliant jurist, Rufus Choate, that, "God, in his omniscience, knows everything but what a petit jury will do." The petit jury (and "petit" with relation to the mind is appropriate) in this case convicted a child of eleven years, of the crime of manslaughter in having caused the death of another child, by throwing a brick from a roof and striking said child on the head. Beyond denying his guilt, the youthful prisoner sat throughout the trial, lasting two days, the least concerned person in the courtroom, not seeming to understand what was going on about him. His manner and expression belied the words of the prosecutor, who characterized him as "vicious and depraved." The case was followed with deep interest by lawyers, officers and courtroom loungers alike, and great was the astonishment when the jury returned with a verdict of guilty. The Justice showed plainly his disapproval of the finding, and gave the boy to the custody of the Gerry Society until a further investigation can be made.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. MARCH, 1903 No. 8

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, March 5th, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

MRS. ISABEL C. BARROWS

will speak on "Prison Reform."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB FEBRUARY 5, 1903

Mr. Wesley C. Bush made an address on Tenement Law and Tenement Life.

Mr. Bush said: "Special legislation for tenement living and housing the masses is not only just, but an imperative necessity. Even at the early date of 1834, when New York had a population of only 270,000, the citizens believed there was a tenement problem: although nothing like the one which confronts us today with our population of over 3,000,000, and the complications of our enormous foreign element, many of whom have a standard of living far below the American standard, and one which we cannot afford to allow to gain ground here. It is a difficult matter to keep pace with immigration-conditions. Of the 648,000 immigrants reported for last year, only a small per cent. were from Northern and Western Europe, where standards of life are higher: the majority were from Eastern and Southern Europe, nearly one-third being illiterate and of low standard of life.

"There is the more urgent necessity of maintaining the Tenement Law at the present time, because of the character of immigration, and of its immediate effect upon tenement-living. The law is intended to improve the condition of those living in tenements, as well as to safeguard the whole community. To teach them the benefits of cleanliness and sanitary living is a necessity. High ideas of cleanliness and propriety must be upheld.

All Communications should be sent to **THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,**
Room 701, 21 Park Row.

"The Tenement Law defines a tenement as a house in which there are three or more families living independently of each other, and doing cooking on the premises. The enactment of the law has resulted in new buildings superior in every respect to the old, and has stopped the conversion of old buildings into tenements, unless all requirements of the law are met.

"The work of the tenement inspector consists in a careful examination of every part of the building. The second floor is taken as a typical floor, and the air space in every room must be measured, and an account given of all windows or lack of windows, etc., etc. The spaces in courts and air-shafts are measured: conditions of the toilets, halls, cellars and general condition of the yards, fire-escapes and roofs are inspected; and diagrams are made of the house. All the conditions are reported thereon, and these are filed away in a bureau of records. Upon these reports are based the orders of the Tenement Commission looking to putting the house in the condition required by law.

"In addition to this, inspectors look up complaints which are made to the department. What this work is, you will readily understand from the fact that from August 1902, to January 1903—only five months—nearly 14,000 complaints were made to the Commission, all of which were investigated and answered, and the remedies applied wherever possible."

At the conclusion of the address the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas: Strong efforts are now being used to induce the Legislature to amend the present Tenement House Law in a manner which will do away with the improvements in the construction and management of tenements which tend to provide proper and necessary conditions of life: Therefore be it

Resolved: That The Woman's Municipal League of New York City respectfully enters its most emphatic protest against any change in the Tenement House Law which would lessen the safeguards now placed about dwellers in tenements: safeguards which provide the light and air necessary to heath and the protection against fire and disease, and against any amendments which do not have the approval of the City Administration and the Tenement House Commission.

The Public Education Association

The Public Education Association of New York, which was organized nearly eight years ago, works chiefly through committees, whose work is and has been as follows:

The School Affairs Committee attends all the meetings of the Board of Education and considers, and, if needful, takes action upon, and all proposed legislation in regard to, school affairs.

The School Visiting Committee visited several times (during the winter of 1901-'02) ninety public schools, all of the forty-three evening schools, and all of the evening play centres. A very thorough report of the conditions found was sent to the various school authorities.

SPECIAL TENEMENT SUPPLEMENT

The Woman's Municipal League Bulletin

MARCH, 1903

Committee on Tenements

Work done for so-called tenement house reform is misnamed, in reality it is not a question of tenement house at all, but a question of the home and moral life of the majority of the American people; for there is no one to-day who will deny that upon the conditions immediately surrounding the individual depend his moral and physical development, his character; and upon these depend the welfare and good name of the nation. There is no question to-day before the public of so **vital importance** and none for which we have so great **responsibility.**

The establishment of the Tenement House Commission in New York to carry out the provisions of the present Tenement House Law was a step toward the high position which such a municipality as New York should take, and the whole country is looking to us as an example. Even in the short time in which the law has been in operation incalculable good has resulted.

The most serious and sweeping attack on tenement house reform that has ever been made is upon us now in the various bills introduced into the Legislature as amendments to the Tenement House Law and now pending before the Cities Committee.

It is a struggle between absolute greed and decency—more between greed and the possibilities of healthful living, between a few people making a few more dollars and thousands of people having means of moral and physical health and cleanliness. For it is the builders and sellers of building material and the owners of tenements who, without any consideration for the welfare of the thousands of tenement dwellers, are urging these measures which may make them richer, and which will be a blot upon the fair name of our city.

There are in Greater New York 82,652 tenements, of which Manhattan has 42,700; Brooklyn, 33,771; The Bronx, 4,365; Queens, 1,933; Richmond, 531; and **in these tenements dwell 2,372,000 people. This is more than sixty-eight per cent. of the entire population of 3,437,202.** It needs no further statement to prove the importance of the question.

The withdrawal of the so-called Marshall bill should not blind us, for it does not mean the withdrawal of the attack upon the law which is being and will be made in other forms.

The **bills sweep away** not only the reforms of recent years, but **almost everything** that has been **accomplished during** the past **forty** years. It is the duty of each one of us to use our utmost exertions to combat these bills, and it can be done if we will express in firm language our **protest** and **get every man** whom we can, whose word as a **voter** is more powerful than our own, to **send immediately** a **protest** urging that **no amendment to the Tenement House Law shall be adopted which in any way lessens the safeguards around the welfare of the occupants of the tenements, by cutting off light or air, or safeguards against fire and disease ; and no amendment which does not have the approval of the City Administration and of the Tenement House Commission of the city should be considered at all.** This protest should be sent to Governor Odell, and to the Chairman of the following committees. It will aid much if, in addition, the protests be sent to the members of these committees as well as to the Senator and Representative of the district in which the writer lives.

Senate Cities Committee

Horace White, *Chairman*	George E. Green	Patrick H. McGarron
George A. Davis	Merton E. Lewis	Samuel J. Ramsperger
Henry Marshall	James B. McEwan	Bernard F. Martin
Nathaniel A. Elsberg	Irving L'Hommideu	Thomas F. Grady

Assembly Committee on Affairs of Cities

Jean L. Burnett, *Chairman*	Gustavus C. Weber	William J. Grattin
Fred W. Hammond	George H. Smith	John McKeown
Jacob D. Remsen	George B. Agnew	John H. Bradley
Edward R. Finch	Robert L. Cox	John T. Dooling
	Matthew F. Neville	

If you do not know the names of the Senator and Representative from your district write to the League rooms for it.

The question is not a question for Manhattan alone as so many consider; Brooklyn has tenements worse than any in the Borough of Manhattan. From Brooklyn comes the chief fight, and to the Brooklyn members we must look for the most strenuous work. It is a question for the outlying districts as well, for the present law will prevent their having in the future the same awful conditions which now exist in the larger boroughs and which nothing but such a law will prevent coming into the smaller ones where the building of tenements is bound to increase rapidly during the next years.

What the Bills Do

They **change** the **definition** of a tenement house so as to **exempt from** the operation of the **law** all **buildings** which contain less than **five families.**

This would mean that more than **25,000 buildings** would be **left without any law at all,** and without any supervision in regard to **sanitary conditions,** and without means of escape in case of **fire,** and **prostitutes** could ply their business in such houses without fear of being disturbed.

It should be remembered that since 1867 the law has included as tenement houses all buildings that contained more than three families, and since 1887 all buildings that contained more than two families.

All the legislation that has been passed since 1867, therefore, in regard to such buildings would be wiped out.

NEW BUILDINGS

This bill would **permit** the **erection** of **new four-story tenement houses,** containing as many as sixteen families, with **wooden stairs, wooden floors** in the public halls, and **wooden partitions** enclosing the public halls, and with the cellar stairs inside the house directly underneath the main stairs, making a continuous flue in case of fire, instead of having fire-proof stairs, fire-proof floors in the halls, and the halls enclosed entirely with brick walls, with the cellar stairs outside of the building, and no opening between the cellar and the first story.

It would **permit 75 per cent. of the lot to be covered** in new buildings, instead of 70 per cent., thus diminishing the amount of space left for light and air.

It would **permit** once more, in **new houses,** the construction of the **old, dark, unventilated air-shaft,** with all the sanitary, moral and social evils that it produces. Such a shaft cannot bring light and air to the interior rooms, and the **evils** of **tuberculosis** that exist to so great an extent would be **reproduced** and **multiplied.**

It would permit in new four-story buildings **public halls** and stairs **without** any **windows** to the **outer air** whatsoever, thus reproducing in new houses all the moral, sanitary and social evils of the old, dark halls.

OLD BUILDINGS

The Tenement House Law sought to cause the improvement of the old buildings in a slight degree, so as to make them at least half-way fit for human habitation, by introducing light and air into dark rooms and halls, and doing away with the horrible school sink and privy vault.

This bill proposes **to leave** the **old houses as they are** and **repeals nearly every section of the law which requires any alteration** in an old house that costs money.

It would allow extensions to be built to **old buildings** so as to **cover** the **entire lot** and **occupy 100 per cent.,** leaving **no yard** or any space available for light or air.

It would leave the **dark interior bedrooms,** which now exist to so alarming an extent, in the old houses, **without any change** whatsoever.

There are in Manhattan over **200,000** and in **Brooklyn** over **125,000 dark, interior rooms without a window of any kind and having no means of light and ventilation.** Under the law these rooms must have windows of not less than 15 square feet, connecting with adjoining rooms, which lets in some light

and ventilation, though it does not make the conditions what they ought to be. The bill would **do away** with **even** this **slight measure of improvement.**

DARK HALLS

The **evils** of the **dark halls** in the old buildings are **notorious.** The present law affords a small measure of relief by having the wooden panels in the doors at the end of the halls taken out and ground-glass panels substituted. The bill proposes to practically **leave the wooden panels as they are.**

LIGHTING OF HALLS AT NIGHT

The law requires a light to be kept burning on two stories all night, and on the other stories until 10 o'clock. The proposed bill would only make it necessary to keep one light burning, and that only until 10 o'clock, and **every hall would be dark after 10 o'clock.**

PRIVY VAULTS AND SCHOOL SINKS

The indescribably vile **privy vaults** and **school sinks** which now exist in some of the old houses **must,** under the **present law, be removed,** and proper water-closets substituted in the houses.

The **bill would allow** the **privy vaults** and **school sinks to stay** just as they are without change.

NEW WATER CLOSETS IN OLD HOUSES

The bill would allow **new water closets** to be placed in **old houses without any means of lighting whatsoever,** permitting them to be ventilated by a small metal duct or pipe not larger than 3 feet by 1 foot, instead of having a window directly to the outer air.

CELLAR FLOORS

The law for forty years has required cellar floors to be cemented and water-tight. The bill proposes to do away with this and simply require them to be cemented when the house is over marshy ground, thus **allowing germs** and **damp air to penetrate through** the **house** and cause sickness.

CLEANLINESS

The bill would relieve the owner from a large part of his present responsibility in regard to cleaning all parts of the building and keeping it clean. It would **do away** with a **requirement of law** that has been in **existence** for nearly **forty years.**

JANITOR OR HOUSEKEEPER

The law has provided for many years that there must be a responsible janitor or caretaker living on the premises, if the Board of Health or the Tenement House Department requires it. The bill provides that a **janitor** must live **"in the vicinity"** which might mean a mile away, or even further.

SADIE AMERICAN,
Chairman.

The Art Committee last winter placed eighty-four large framed pictures and sixty-five casts upon the walls of four public schools; distributed 2,481 small unframed pictures in thirty-seven schools; and established three libraries of small framed pictures which the children were allowed to take to their homes.

The Music Committee interests itself in artistic and educational music matters; at present it aids the West Side Civic Club in maintaining a series of concerts in a public school on Sunday afternoons.

The Nature Material Committee distributes flowers, shrubs, shells, aquaria, terraria, etc., among the public schools, and assists the Alumnæ Association of the Normal College in giving wild flower exhibitions.

The Tombs School Committee supports a school for boys in the Tombs prison. During last year 757 boys passed through it. This Committee also helped to organize the new school for boys serving sentence at the workhouse on Blackwell's Island.

The Association holds public meetings in order to impress upon the people of the city the importance of understanding the present conditions and the needs of the public schools.

Other standing committees assist in carrying on the business of the Association, and special committees are frequently appointed to do temporary work.

WINIFRED BUCK,
Chairman Press Committee.

Committee on Corrections

The existence of the Reformatory for Women, at Bedford, N. Y., is menaced by bills introduced in both houses of the Legislature, at the desire of the Governor. He wishes the Reformatory abandoned, the inmates sent to other institutions, and the present building used as an insane asylum. The Reformatory has been in use for twenty months. During that time it has received over 230 women. There are now 197 inmates and 17 released on parole. Most of those so released during the twenty months have done well. There is not room in Hudson and Albion Reformatories for the 197 young women now at Bedford. Those institutions are too far away from New York to be used by the City Magistrates. Earnest women labored for eighteen years to obtain the Bedford Reformatory. Will the community permit the backward step that its abolishment would be? All thoughtful persons now know that reformation, and not punishment, should be the purpose of restraint. All such people must now act to preserve the well-managed institution at Bedford.

ANNA M. JACKSON,
Chairman.

In Prison or Court

The census of the Tombs at this date shows a total of twenty-four female prisoners, as against forty-two at the end of January. This number is below the average, but is not unusual at this time of the year. It may be fairly presumed, with regard to women, that the cold weather furnishes less opportunity for the commission of the higher grades of crime while the contrary can be said relative to petty offenses. The explanation of this is found in the records of the Police Courts, showing a great number of cases involving the larceny of the common necessaries of life during the extreme cold spells. These cases, however, seldom reach General Sessions.

The uniform course adopted by the Judges in General Sessions, some three months ago, of inflicting severe sentences to States Prison upon dishonest servants, has had the salutary effect of crushing, in its incipiency, a fast-growing practice of great danger to the community. Young women, in most cases of prepossessing appearance and well supplied with bogus references, would secure employment as domestics and remain in service only a sufficient time to steal all the available jewelry and money they could put their hands on, and then time their departure when it would be least noticed. That there has not been a single case of that description in General Sessions during the past month, shows that the Court's severity has had a deterrent effect upon others similarly inclined.

In this column of the January Bulletin, was a criticism of a jury in Part Two, in convicting a young boy of the crime of manslaughter, and it was stated that a further investigation would be made by the Judge who presided at the trial, before he passed sentence. That investigation, prosecuted by the Probation Officer of the Court, disclosed facts which tend to prove the boy entirely innocent, and which have procured for him a new trial.

The janitress of the house from which the brick was thrown went to the roof immediately after the occurence and saw the mother of the defendant sitting there; and near by was a younger brother, of about four years of age, playing with some bricks on the coping. The boy charged with the crime was not there. The janitress thinks she told the District Attorney about this, but is not sure. At any event she was not questioned about it at the trial. The mother of the boys, in her ignorance, could not see how the elder boy could be convicted, knowing as she did that he was innocent, and, wishing to protect the younger, did not even tell her counsel of the true state of affairs.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. APRIL, 1903 No. 9

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, April 2nd, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

DR. LOUISE FISKE BRYSON

will speak on "Child Labor."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB MARCH 5, 1903

Mrs. Isabel C Burrows, of the Prison Association, gave a brief summary of the work of the Bedford Reformatory for Women, now in danger of abolishment.

With great difficulty the first reformatory for women was established in Massachusetts twenty years ago. Prior to that time women prisoners were scattered in the different jails all over the State. The sheriffs rebelled against their removal on account of the fees extracted from these prisoners and owing to the fact that they did the work of the institutions. We have now in the State of New York three reformatories for women, all doing splendid work.

The Reformatory at Bedford was many years in coming to life. It took nine years to get the bill for the institution through the legislature and it was nine years more before the buildings were ready for occupancy. It is the only institution of the kind convenient to the city, the demands of which are

greater than all the rest of the State. The cottage system has been adopted for housing the inmates, and in them they are classified according to age. Externally there is but little about the Reformatory to suggest a prison; within it bears far more resemblance to a school. The spacious grounds of one hundred acres are well kept and afford healthful and even remunerative employment for the women. The aim of the institution is not so much to make them feel they are criminals under punishment as that they are being educated and helped. The graded school is a boon to the illiterate, and the trades taught give each woman a means of respectable livelihood when discharged.

Among the one hundred and ninety-seven women now in Bedford the average age is twenty-one, but many are scarcely more than children. Fifteen nationalities are represented and nine different religions. Ten per cent. can neither read nor write, and twenty per cent. can not speak the English language. During the twenty months the institution has been in operation seventeen have been paroled, and out of that number only one has violated her parole. To illustrate the fine work done, may be cited the case of a woman af the lowest depths of degradation, with a nature of such violence that she was known as the "black terror." While it seemed a hopeless case of insubordination, through the intervention of Mrs. Lowell she escaped a transference to Auburn and was retained in Bedford, where, owing to the tender care and efficient training of the Superintendent, this negress is now equal to a police officer, obedient to all laws herself and making her influence felt throughout the institution. The tendency is to make life at Bedford savor as little of the prison as is consistent with good discipline, and to teach the girls that "good times" are not always at variance with morality.

The initial expense of establishing the institution was naturally great, owing to the opening of the new buildings and the small number of inmates (twenty-six) with which the work was begun. At present the expense per capita is but one cent higher than at Hudson, and this is reduced with every new inmate. A large amount is saved in transportation. It costs the State nearly four times as much to send prisoners to Hudson as to Bedford; thus with even two hundred inmates the salary of the Superintendent is saved. The financial burden of the State would therefore be increased rather than diminished by transferring the women even to Hudson, which is beyond the reach of the city magistrates.

The closing of the Bedford Reformatory by the enactment of the bills now pending in the Legislature will imperil the success of the system of education and training so carefully developed in this institution. If Bedford is abolished the present number of inmates can not be well cared for elsewhere, and the reformatory work will be seriously hampered by the overcrowding in other institutions. Certainly a great injustice would be done were the women committed to a reformatory for the purpose of training and education be sent to a State Prison.

Committee on Legislation

The following bills introduced into the State Legislature have been endorsed by the Legislative Committee:

First.—The bill introduced in the Senate and Assembly to regulate Child Labor. The physical development of the child, up to the age of twelve, if not fourteen years, ought to be protected by our laws. The child needs to be safeguarded on its physical, mental and moral sides, and to do this is one of the aims of the Child Labor bill. However, it is not only the individual

but the community at large which will benefit by such a law. The fact that children have done the work which ought to have been performed by men and women, has introduced cheap competition, for naturally their services would not be recompensed at the same rate as those of adults. Though the Committee feels that the last word has not yet been spoken on this subject, yet the proposed bills aim at a greater degree of justice to the child than has hitherto been shown.

Second.—The bill introduced by Mr. Clark in the Assembly to establish a State Farm for Women. It is undoubtedly true that many women, known as "repeaters" to our courts and prisons, are brought to this condition by their incapacity for self-control. An out-of-door life and the daily demand upon their physical strength are unquestionably the best means for saving these women. It is proposed by this bill simply to relieve the taxpayers of their support, by placing these "repeaters" under scientific treatment, and at the same time rendering them self-supporting through healthful out-of-door employment.

Third.—The bill introduced by Senator Armstrong, providing for the registration of nurses. All who have worked to raise the standard of nursing, and who have seen the development of the nurses within the last fifteen years, must regard this bill as the inevitable result of what has gone before. The bill provides that the Regents of the University of the State of New York shall appoint a Board of Examiners, for the examination of nurses. Any resident holding a diploma from a Training School for Nurses connected with a hospital giving a course of at least two years, and registered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York as maintaining proper standards, shall be entitled to pass this examination, and having passed it, shall be recognized as a registered nurse. An amendment to this bill has been proposed by Dr. E. Eliot Harris, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the State Medical Association, providing that the Regents may waive examination upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners in cases of persons who graduated before the passage of the act or were in training at that time. Dr. Harris would provide further that any nurse who has been practising her profession in this State, to the exclusion of all other business for five years prior to the passage of the act, and whose character and qualifications are endorsed by three licensed physicians of the State, may be registered and entitled to the distinguishing mark of R.N. (Registered Nurse), if application therefor be made prior to July next. Up to the present time it has been possible for any one, through correspondence, to take a course in obstetrical nursing, and, with the payment of ten dollars, receive a certificate which entitles the holder to the same right of nursing as the nurse who had maintained her course for three years at a hospital. Of the 18,000 women claiming to be Trained Nurses at the time of the last census in the State of New York, only 2,700 were graduates of Training Schools connected with the hospitals.

Fourth.—The bill introduced to abolish the New York State Bedford Reformatory for Women, and to convert the same into a State Hospital for the insane, has been vigorously opposed. The Reformatory cases are not the only ones to be considered. The interests of the insane are to be remembered also. The property at Bedford, through its inconvenient situation, and its construction, is so little adapted to the needs of the insane, that the contemplated change cannot but be strongly deprecated by those interested in their welfare.

The Legislative Committee earnestly asks the League to consider the wisdom of supporting Mr. Jerome in his efforts to secure the opening of the saloons on Sunday afternoons. It seems to the Committee that any law which allows blackmail to be a daily fact should not exist. There must be

some better way of legislating upon the subject, and the League is strongly urged to consider the best means of meeting this situation.

A protest against any amendments to the Tenement House Law, excepting such as have the approval of the City Administration and the Tenement House Commission, signed by the President of the League, the Chairman of Committee on Legislation and Committee on Tenements, was sent to the Governor and to each member of the Senate and Assembly Cities Committee.

MARGARET D. DREIER,
Chairman.

The Consumers' League

About twenty years ago two women having a large account at one of the principal mercantile establishments of New York City, saw a girl faint at her post. They at once asked some one near why she did not sit down. The reply was that there was nothing to sit on. "Then why did she not lean upon one of the girls?" "Not allowed." "Or on one of the counters, or on the cases behind her?" "Not allowed." Outraged at such a story, these two pioneers of the Consumers' League movement—years before a Consumers' League was thought of—went to the managers and said that unless seats were provided immediately they must withdraw their account. The managers were amazed, never having heard or thought of seats, but that night work began. Perhaps no simpler statement of the reason and the naturalness of such an effort as the League represents could be made. Slowly and gradually has the public conscience awakened to responsibility for conditions under which articles that they buy are sold, until to-day letter after letter coming to the office of the League with requests for information as to the treatment of employees in this or that establishment, reveals the fact that the women of New York do very much care how their less fortunate sisters are treated.

From this small beginning of a sense of responsibility for conditions surrounding those who *sell* what we buy, has grown a larger thought that we must go farther back to conditions about those who *produce*, and four years ago the National Consumers' League was formed. Now there are more than thirty branches over the length and breadth of the land, and the Secretary, Mrs. Florence Kelley, spends her year in two important general efforts,—one, that of organizing new Leagues, the other, that of investigating factories in order to ascertain whether conditions are such as to permit the use of the Consumers' League label. To gain the right of the use of this label, factories must obey State factory laws, employ no children, and pay for overtime.

EMMA BRACE,
Corresponding Secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

It is the sense of the Central Committee that the League should be incorporated in order to give it legal standing. A vote will be taken on this subject at the regular monthly meeting of the League to be held the first Thursday of May.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. MAY, 1903 NO. 10

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, May 7th, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

DR. ROWLAND G. FREEMAN

will speak on "Dairy Hygiene," with Stereopticon Illustrations.

DR. ERNEST J. LEDERLE,

PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH

will speak on "Keeping the City Healthy during the Summer Months."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,

Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB APRIL 2, 1903

Dr. Louise Fisk Bryson, late of Post Graduate Course, read a paper on Child Labor, of which the following is a part :

The present laws legalize the employment of children under fourteen and they are to be found at work everywhere,—in factories, in shops and on the streets. In the abstract, work for pay is better than the lawlessness created by idleness. But work for pay kills thousands of little children, while mischief has the merit of being done by children who are very much alive. Our immediate concern is that children may stay alive ; and to this end was the Child Labor Committee organized.

After Governor Odell's January message to the Legislature, in which he urged amendments to make the statutes more effective in laws relating to children, bills were prepared by the Child Labor Committee, and introduced into Senate and Assembly. In them are important provisions designed to protect the child wage-earners. One requires a parent's certificate that the child is fourteen years old. Another, that the existing laws regulating employment of children in mercantile establishments and regulating hours of

employment of such children, be extended to cover children working in connection with telegraph, messenger, delivery and other offices, or hotels, restaurants, or places of public amusement. Another provision has to do with vacation-work for children under fourteen. Still another amendment proposes to make it illegal for children to work on the street after 9 p.m., and to regulate the age at which they can begin to earn money through any employment that keeps them out after dark.

The confinement of children in crowded places like factories and workshops, working after dark in badly lighted rooms, is fatal to health and physical or mental development. Children under these circumstances become easy prey to tuberculosis ; and the ravages of this desease can never be completely stayed until children receive civilized care.

District Work

At the April meeting of the Heights Branch of the W. M. L., an address was delivered by the Deputy Commissioner of Health for the Borough of Brooklyn, on "The Relation Between the Department of Health and the Department of Tenements." Dr. Raymond made it clear that the duties of each. while in a measure covering the same ground, were clearly differentiated. This address was necessary because of the activities of the First Assembly District Committee of the Heights Branch, now studying the tenement-house conditions of the District. In the Second Assembly District, two meetings have been held to prepare the way for organizing workers in that locality.

The Third Assembly District, while not organized, has not been neglected. Complaints to the authorities against some tenements in the District, resulted in their condemnation. A play-ground has been secured for one of the public schools, graded, and planted with flowers by the Deputy Commissioner of Parks. While the Heights Branch by its Constitution is limited in its membership to the residents of the Local Improvement District, the needs of the District south has compelled some activities there. A lot 263 by 106 feet has been secured for the Board of Education to use as a playground. As the Board is not allowed to spend money on private property, members of the League have assumed the cost of fencing this lot. It is hoped to have the ground lighted at night, and so equipped as to be available for the working boys of the region. The Public Safety Committee report action in favor of securing for the police matrons an entire day off duty in a month, as is now given to doormen.

Mrs. Camden C. Dike, *President.*

The City History Club of New York

This is a Club composed of children, women, and men, for the purpose of creating and awakening civic patriotism. It has been said, "Give me the children, and we have the whole city;" in other words, the Club is the Kindergarten of good citizenship. Its methods, therefore, are almost wholly

graphic, thereby interesting young and old, and really entering into the very lives and homes of our members. The children carry new interest into their homes by the notebooks, by the pictures they are asked to collect, by the sights they are shown when being taken about during the Club excursions. The brothers and sisters help, the mothers and fathers listen, and our classes grow, and our aim is to create a love for all that is good and great in this vast city.

The Club is but seven years old, and in these seven years much has been experienced. We have grown from a Club of thirty to over three thousand. One has but to pay fifty cents to become a member; the children but to buy a badge, which costs five cents. It takes some little ones as many weeks to become the possessor of one of our little nickel-bearer badges. "For the City" is our motto, and what more may be said.

When first our Clubs were established in the Churches, Schools and Settlements, we asked only for members and a room. As we have grown and our force of well-trained teachers has necessarily increased, we have had to ask support, and in almost every instance the value of the work has been recognized.

We feel greatly encouraged by the adoption of our methods in the newer courses of study, by the Public School and the growing interest of the private schools and colleges. At the conference of teachers of the Historical Association of the Middle States and Maryland, held in February, our note-book work and graphic methods were most enthusiastically appreciated. From our lantern talks, great benefit is derived, they showing most vividly the contrast between the old and the new city. Three thousand of these we own. Another interesting feature is our guide department. We train and thoroughly equip men and women to conduct parties to points of historic interest in and about New York. The Club also publishes a City History game, dealing wholly with local history.

Mrs. E. B. Van Dusen,
Secretary.

April 13, 1903.

Playgrounds and Gymnasiums in New York's Parks

After five years of labor, the Outdoor Recreation League now rejoices to see the objects of its organization being attained ; for the League, unlike many bodies of a similar name, was not established primarily for the purpose of maintaining playgrounds at private expense, for an indefinite period. Such work our League has done on a large scale and successfully, but only as a means to an end.

In May, 1898, the League was organized for the ultimate purpose of securing from the **Municipality** a due recognition of the necessity for recreation and physical exercise as fundamental to the moral and physical welfare of the people, and secondly to secure the establishment and maintenance, by the **Municipality,** of sufficient and proper playgrounds and open-air gymnasiums for the people.

Some of our grounds were maintained on private property, and others, as far as possible, in unimproved parks —the latter being the surest way of driving in our wedge. The first public space to be improved, after our League had set its impress upon it, was Seward Park. It is now well known that we struggled with an obstinate and obtuse Park Department for nearly four years, contesting every inch of ground, never surrendering under any defeat, until at last, at the close of the Van Wyck administration, the Municipality was committed to the improvement of Seward Park according to our recommendations.

The actual work is being done by the present administration, and is so near completion, that it may now be announced that very probably Seward Park's stadium, its gymnasium, running track, and athletic field, its large playground and its beautiful Italian loggia-pavilion and bath-house, together with all the natural beauties of a park, will be opened and dedicated to the people's use on the first Saturday in June.

Park Commissioner Wilcox is laying out playgrounds and gymnasiums in the five following parks:

Seward Park, Hester and Essex Streets.
Corlears Hook Park, Jackson Street and East River.
Hamilton Fish Park, Houston and Pitt Streets.
Tompkins Park, Tenth Street and Avenue A.
East River Park, 84th Street and East River.

Two other parks will be similarly improved before the summer is over, provided the laying out of the ground advances fast enough, viz:

Thomas Jefferson Park, 111th Street and East River.
Dewitt Clinton Park, 53d Street and Hudson River.

There is now pending at Albany a legislative measure which, if passed, will immediately, this summer, add four more playgrounds to the park system.

CHAS. B. STOVER,
President,
OUTDOOR RECREATION LEAGUE

League for Political Education

The lectures, classes, etc., of the League for Political Education ceased with the month of April. On April 22d, at 11 a.m., Miss Adele M. Fielde's class in Parliamentary Procedure met for the last time, and on April 24th.

The Library and Reading Room of the League will be open up to June 1st. Callers, whether members or not, are always welcome.

Preliminary announcements for the season of 1903-1904 will appear in this Bulletin from time to time.

ROBERT ERSKINE ELY,
Director and Secretary.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. JUNE, 1903 No. 11

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, June 4th, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

MR. THOMAS A. FULTON,
Secretary of the Citizens' Union,

will speak on "How to Prepare for the Coming Campaign."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD AT THE CITY CLUB
MAY 7, 1903

Dr. Ernest J. Lederle, Commissioner of the Department of Health spoke on the work of the Department.

In expressing the gratitude of the Health Department to the women of the city for their help in various branches of the work, Dr. Lederle made special reference to "**Mrs. Ralph Trautman** and her able associates in the **Women's Health Protective Association,** who have labored so zealously for years on sanitary improvements. To **Mrs. Frederick Nathan, President of the Consumer's League,** whom we last year appointed as a **Special Mercantile Inspector,** and who through her untiring energy and interest in the working girl has spurred us on to a more strict enforcement of the laws regulating the employment of child labor and the conditions of such labor in mercantile establishments. To the **women workers** of the **Child Labor Committee,** who keep in so close touch with our work in these lines. To **Miss Lillian D. Wald,** our good friend in the **Nurses' Settlement,** who came to our rescue in caring for the thousands of school children excluded by us from the public schools for various ailments, with her system of school nurses and offered her head nurse to work out a practicable plan, as a result of which we now have twenty-eight trained nurses in regular service doing splendid work. To **Mrs.**

Barlow and the **Island Mission,** who hearing that we were trying to put a little sunshine into the lives of our little patients in our contagious desease hospitals at North Brother Island, from time to time supplied us with toys, and last Christmas helped us very substantially, and to other individual women who have by personal efforts upheld us in our work and encouraged us in our efforts, We have connected with our Department a Board of eminent physicans acting as an Advisory Board. Perhaps we will have to add to it a special Auxiliary Board of Women to help in the city's house cleaning."

Dr. Lederle classified the matters of the Department as follows:

Street cleaning; house and yard cleaning; vacant lots.

Offensive odors, exhalations, etc.; smoke nuisance, use of smoky fuel; slaughter houses; gas houses; stables; connecting houses with sewers, where such are in the street.

"Last spring," he continued, "the following special work was undertaken with the object of improving the sanitary condition of the city before the hot weather set in. A thorough inspection of stables, discontinuance of manure vaults, and manure to be either baled or removed daily from premises. Vacant lots cleaned, disinfected and fenced. All public markets were examined. A number were condemned and will be soon torn down and sites used by the city for other purposes, others were ordered to be put in good sanitary condition. The sanitary condition of all places of public assemblage was examined. Attention was given to the subway construction and many conditions corrected. Rumors having reached us from San Francisco of the presence of cases of bubonic plague in that locality, particular attention was given to Chinatown in this borough. The whole section was inspected, and furthermore, orders given that no Chinaman could be buried unless the body was examined by one of our experts. In case the plague should be brought here it would be very important to detect the first case.

The establishment of an out-of-door market for push cart peddlers on the East side is now an accomplished fact, so far as the fish dealers are concerned, and makes the work of the department easier.

The death rate of a city is usually regarded as an index to its cleanliness and general sanitary conditions. The mortality of the City of New York in 1892 was the lowest in the history of the city being 18.74 per 1,000, and the rate for the first four month of this year, 1903, is even relatively lower.

While taking a pardonable pride in our city for this showing we feel that any credit attached to it should be bestowed on our Mayor, who organized the forces that effected it. To the Street Cleaning Department with the indefatigable Dr. Woodbury at its head. To the Tenement House Department under the leadership of Commissioner de Forest, whose interest in the tenement house problem is known the world over. To all other Departments whose functions are in lines of sanitary improvements. To the women of the city for their untiring interest. To the physicians who have so universally helped us and to the Press and the general public who have so generously supported us."

Dr. Rowland G. Freeman of the Department of Health, gave an illustrated talk upon Dairy Hygiene, showing systems employed in the detection of deleterious matter in milk consumed in the city, pointing out the influence of sterilized and pasteurized milk upon the mortality of infants. The sterilized milk is so universally employed among the poor that in looking for babies fed upon non-sterilized milk, it was impossible to find any.

These addresses were followed by a carefully prepared paper by Mrs. George M. Creevey upon the methods adopted in regulating the milk supply. Mrs. Creevey said:

"The milk of New York City is for the most part supplied by regularly organized companies; there are few individual producers who distribute their supply direct to the consumers, the majority finding it easier and more profitable to sell to the creameries established at convenient points by big companies. For several years committees appointed by the New York Medical Society,—and of late the Health Board at the instigation of Dr. Lederle—have been untiring in their investigations of the milk, and much credit is due them for their efforts in introducing and enforcing new regulations regarding the city's milk supply and thereby securing to the public at least some good milk. They have made it absolutely essential for those large companies who wish to keep their trade, to furnish a guaranteed quality of milk which may at any time undergo examination without failing in any of the requirements. A committee appointed by the New York Medical Society makes weekly examinations of specimens of milk sold by these companies, and notes immediately any irregularity. For a year the Board of Health has been examining specimens of milk found for sale in different parts of the, citty wihthe result that there have been 722 arrests and prosecutions. Much has been accomplished by this vigorous policy of arrest and prosecution in bringing the milk up to the required standard of excellence,—also in enlightening the public by a truer knowledge of the real state of things regarding the city's milk. Mr. Strauss justly claims a decrease in mortality and illness among the babies since his bottles have come into use. The importance of studying this subject of the city's milk supply with a view toward remedying the conditions still further, can scarcely be overestimated.

A word as to the different qualities of milk which can be found within the city limits. We would mention first the Pasteurized and Sterilized milk which can be had, although as yet the demand for these treated milks is a very small one. Some of the milk companies will regularly supply a quality of milk which bears the label "Certified Milk,—signed by the New York Medical Society. This is milk which is examined daily, and is found to contain less than 30,000 bacteria to the cubic centimeter, as against the results obtained in examining ordinary milk, which may contain up into the hundred thousands of bacteria to the cubic centimeter. This certified milk is a new institution and fulfils the requirements of a safe milk, although as yet it has not become extensively used by the public. The next quality is what may be called ordinary milk,—and this is what the public uses as a general thing.

This milk also has its standard of excellence, as I have already indicated, and by dint of the efforts of the investigators has become a comparatively safe article for consumption. Then there are the six cent, four cent and even three cent varieties which may be found in the streets on the East side; and this is the milk which has caused such a tremendous amount of trouble among the children, especially in the summer.

The methods pursued by the different companies in gathering and handling the milk are essentially the same. Their aim is to secure cleanliness in the milk, as well as to produce milk up to the standard of requirement regarding fats, etc. We will take the methods of one company in the handling of the milk from the time it is drawn from the cow until it reaches the consumer, and that will give a general idea of how it ought to be done. This company has its own inspectors and veterinary surgeons who every month inspect all the farms from which the milk is drawn. All the cattle are examined; all the barns inspected. The company requires of the farmer that all the cows shall be cleaned before milking; that he and his helpers shall wash their hands before milking; that the pail shall be sterilized; that the barns shall be cleaned daily and whitewashed every month. The farmers themselves deliver their milk to the company's creameries every afternoon, where it is bottled in bottles that have been previously washed and sterilized. It is brought to the city on the early trains and delivered directly to the consumer without further handling. A good many companies convey the milk to the receiving station in the city, and then bottle it, a method of which the investigators scarcely approve. The company gets its milk from farms situated near New York and is thus enabled to deliver milk only twelve hours old to the consumer. Others gather their milk from farms sometimes three hundred miles distant, so that it is forty-eight hours old when it reaches the consumer, and although it may be perfectly good for practical purposes, it has not that freshness of new milk which is all important for little children. Most of the companies have their own inspectors, for in spite of the inspectors supplied by the State, there is milk furnished to the city which is poisoned from the start. This is cheap milk which the small retail dealer gets for very little, and this together with what old left over milk they can get from the companies, is what causes the very great trouble among the poorer districts

In England there is a tremendous competition between the home producers and those across the Channel. Although the farms in England undergo strict inspection, and there are numerous regulations which will provide for the purity of the new milk, yet, curiously enough, the English people particularly the Londoners, will take anything from the foreign dealers which they are pleased to term milk, and no questions asked. This so-called milk is necessarily preserved,—adulteration is the usual thing, and there are absolutely no regulations controlling the trade. Mr. Hodges, in the Chamber's Journal, has published a long lament over the condition of affairs, and yet the agitation over the milk supply is not as effective there as it has been on the Continent.

In Europe, particularly in the northern parts where the danger from tuberculosis is so pronounced, sterilized milk is the ordinary thing. In infant feeding sterilized milk is somtimes necessary in hot weather among the poor where the purity of the milk can not be depended upon, or where the milk must be kept for several days, as in steamship travel. But it can not be recommended for regular feeding over long periods, inasmuch as the higher temperature necessary for sterilization produces such chemical changes as may produce scurvy. The ideal modification of milk where its sterility can not be depended upon, is the process of pasteurization which kills the bacteria without producing deleterious chemical changes. Sterilized milk is quite as easy to get and costs no more than the ordinary milk, and is used much more extensively abroad than in any part of America. A few cents more or less on a bottle makes more difference to the great mass of people than any one can realize. In Italy there are strict regulations in regard to the city's milk supply. In France, especially Paris, the condition of affairs is very bad. Monsieur Dufour published last year in La Réne Philantropique a long article denouncing the authorities, and suggesting remedies. His article revealing the criminal proceedings of the men supplying milk to the city, aroused much feeling among the citizens. Not much more than that has as yet been accomplished. Bolle's dairy in Berlin is famous for its pure milk. The regulations in that city are very strict and the inspectors are very diligent.

In Copenhagen the most ideal milk supply exists. For three years the public has been supplied with pasteurized milk. A company was organized to meet the public's demand for safe milk, it being estimated that at least half of the cows in Denmark were suffering from tuberculosis. Moreover the methods of handling the milk were the cause of much disease all over the state. This company has devised and manufactured two large machines for the pastuerization of all the milk. In these machines the milk is received mixed, pasteurized and cooled. It is immediately bottled and sealed with the company's seal, and delivered to the consumer, All the milk received by the company is tested and filtered. A bacteriologist is constantly testing the effectiveness of the machines. The utensils are sterilized, and particular care is taken with the bottles. There are very strict regulations with which the farmers who supply the company with milk, must comply. Inspectors examine the farms every month, testing the milk and water, and investigate the barns.

This company's trade has grown tremendously. In place of the three or four huudred quarts which any ordinary company delivers daily, the company supplies thirty thousand quarts. The price per bottle is precisely the same in both cases, which may partly account for the great popularity and general use of the pasteurized milk in Denmark. This company is not at all a charity organization, but the cost of heating the milk and cooling in the brine cooled by the ammonia process, does not exceed the cost of keeping the milk packed in ice until the time of delivery."

Annual Meeting of the National Municipal League

The National Municipal League met in Detroit April 22d, and we have received the annual address of Mr. Woodruff calling our attention to the **Year's Work** in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Spokane and Kansas City. All the conditions described are of great significance and show how various the great fight becomes in focusing public opinion against corruption and State Control. Since want of space prevents our printing the entire Report, we have selected but a few points of special interest.

Mr. Woodruff's praise for the improved conditions in our city departments:

After quoting from the Citizens' Union résumé of the ten months of Mayor Low's administration, Mr. Woodruff says : "Certainly the Citizens' Union was fully justified, after reviewing at length and in great detail important accomplishments, in declaring that it all promises a new and impressive era of municipal government in New York. Moreover, there has been no set back during the time which has elapsed since the publication of that report. On the contrary, there has been such substantial progress in all directions, and especially those that were most open to criticism and, notably, in the police department, that one is justified in agreeing with the statement that the Low administration is the best administration the city has ever had."

Municipal Ownership

"The muncipal ownership movement, as it has come to be known, has taken a deep hold upon the urban population of this country. We have already seen how interest in franchise questions has overshadowed all others in Chicago and Cleveland.. So it has been elsewhere, and the various reform organizations have had to devote a large share of their time and energies to a consideration of franchise questions. This is indeed a healthy and an auspicious sign."

Nomination Reform

"Nomination reform has occupied a prominent place in gubernatorial messages and in the consideration of legislators during the past winter. There is a general consensus of opinion that the primaries of all parties should be held on the same day (and that preferably a registration day where personal registration is required) and under the same officials who shall be paid out of the state or local treasurv. The reason is obvious. It prevents the same man from voting at more than one primary. Under existing conditions, where primaries are held on separate days it frequently happens that venal voters cast a vote at both primaries, thus securing a double influence.

The demand for official surveillance is due to the conviction that as the state already recognizes parties in the matter of nominations, it should go one step further and see to it that the nominations are honestly and fairly made. To what extent the state should supervise the selection of party com-

mittees and other parts of the "organization" is an open question, still much debated, but the tendency is in the direction of throwing the protection of the state around the preliminary nominations as it does now around the general election.

There is a growing sentiment in favor of having primary tickets made up on the principle of the Australian ballot, so that all candidates shall be on an equal basis. This means a grouping of candidates for each office to be filled, and then alphabetically arranging them under their respective groups. There is a demand for the abolition of the delegate system, and the substitution of the direct primary system, under which voters express their choice of candidates directly. Under such a system the primary is to all intents a preliminary election for the selection of those who are to run at the second and final one. The advantages of this method are obvious: it provides for direct expression of opinion and it prevents the manipulations of delegates."

Progress in Chicago:—"In Chicago the work of improving the city council still goes on. The last election, held April 7, marked even a more brilliant triumph for the Municipal Voters' League than ever before. Of the seventy members of the city council, at least fifty-six are pledged to the League platform and to its policy of a non-partisan organization of the city's council. At the recent election, not more than four or five candidates vigorously opposed by the League were elected, and in many wards old time 'gangsters,' or 'gray wolves,' as they are called, went down to defeat. The League scored victories in wards in which it had never been able to do much heretofore, and in the better class of wards there was no contest at all,—the man supported by the League being assured of re-election in almost every case, without serious opposition. Perhaps a more striking manifestation of the power of the League was in the Thirty-third ward, in which are situated the Pullman car shops and several factories. The Democrats had nominated an undesirable candidate. The Republican candidate was supposed, until four or five days before the election, to be satisfactory, but it was discovered that his record in private life rendered him even more objectionable then his Democratic opponent. In the face of this situation, the League advised the voters of that ward to support the nominee of the Socialist party as a protest against the other two candidates, and, to the surprise of the entire city, the Socialist was elected. This striking manifestation of the power of the League will have a very wholesome influence hereafter upon party nominees."

Here indeed is a condition which in New York is not even in sight. To anyone who has followed the deliberations, or rather lack of deliberation, of the Board of Aldermen during the past winter, it must be evident that the elements which make for good government are there entirely at the mercy of an ignorant and self-interested majority. How could it be otherwise? Those who elect the aldermen have not begun to grasp the power of the aldermen for making conditions under which they live comfortable or uncomfortable. Only when it is impossible for a corrupt machine to force a bad nominee upon a district, can we hope to be safe from foolish ordinances and corruption.

MARGARET L. CHANLER.

District Work

The Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch of the Woman's Municipal League

Highbridge reports good work on its City History Class and the entire revolutionizing of the system for the disposal of garbage. Also continual efforts towards inducing city authorities to grant the Union Railroad rights over McComb's Dam Bridge, which efforts have now been practically thrown to the wind by the unreasonable decision of the Board of Aldermen on May 5th.

Bedford Park reports a mass meeting at which Dr. Knopf spoke on Tuberculosis, Dr. Gulick on the new system of Hygiene in schools and Dr. Hurd on the Sanitary Conditions of the Bronx.

Kingsbridge is making investigations into the garbage contract which contract seems to have no binding effect.

Tremont reports that the sites selected by them for the erection of Comfort Stations have been approved by the Park Commissioner, and that investigations in regard to the roads in Crotona Park brought to light the facts that steps had already been taken to improve them. The much talked of fountain has been erected and presented to the City with imposing ceremonies; and the tribute that the women of this division received from all political parties added much to the impressivness of the occasion.

The **Morrisania Division** reports work on the library; gratifying increase in the Girls' Club and good work in vacant lots where, with the aid of the children, seven barrels full of empty cans were gathered. The continuance of the good work of cleaning up is much discouraged by the fact that the garbage contractor can not be compelled to take away the cans so that the barrels full of cans have stood in the street for the past two weeks.

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW,
Chairman.

Committee on Tenements

My Dear Miss American:—

Now that the fight in regard to the Tenement House Law is over, for this year at least, I want to express to you my very great appreciation of the splendid work that was done by you and your associates in opposing the vicious attacks which were made upon the law. Had it not been for your efforts, and those of others similarly interested, as well as the active co-operation of the press, a large part of the tenement house reforms accomplished in recent years would have been lost.

I take this opportunity of expressing my personal appreciation of the effective, disinterested and splendid co-operation that has been accorded by you.

Yours cordially,
ROBERT W. DE FOREST.

May 7, 1903.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. I. JULY, 1903 No. 12

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, July 2d, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM R. WILCOX

will speak on "Parks and Playgrounds."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD AT THE CITY CLUB
JUNE 4, 1903

In suggesting preparation for the fall campaign Mr. R. Fulton Cutting said the situation of the present campaign is quite different from any hitherto experienced. Heretofore popular indignation against existing conditions has carried us into victory. But we have had now an era of good government, the best the city has ever had, and in times of prosperity the zeal of the ordinary man flags. If the battle is not ours it will not be due to the excellent organization of Tammany Hall. or to the dissatisfaction with the present administration, but to the apathy of the intelligent men of the city who prefer holiday pleasuring to voting, when election day rolls around. The main efforts for a victory, a second successive victory of the reform movement, should be directed to the task of getting out the vote, and of informing the public of the good work accomplished in the departments under Mayor Low. There is imperative need of instruction and of personal canvassing particularly in the residential sections which contain a large percentage of non-voting citizens.

We look to the women to arouse these people from this apathy and to bring them to the polls. We need the women to throw the sentiment, the

moral element, into the campaign. As an excellent mode of procedure I would suggest just before registration days sending a letter through the daily papers urging the men on to duty. Let it be signed by many women, as many as possible, prominent in social life, literature and charity. Do not confine the letter to economic issues and statistics, but let it contain the one great thought of the sentiment of the situation. Emphasize the work of the Health Department,—the health of a community comprehends the most there is. Give a few telling facts in regard to the work of the Tenement House Commission and the Department of Public Charities. Bring these things home to the people. Wake them up and compel them to feel their responsibility. Make it impossible for them to be listless in regard to the results of the next election by making them to appreciate what the present administration has accomplished. People are coming to feel the need of good governmemt. This has been true since Hewitt came out as an independent candidate in 1890. To be a good citizen a man must advance the interests of the city and to do this he must vote at every election. Bring these men to the polls and the reform element wins twice in succession.

Mr. Thomas A. Fulton in indorsing Mr. Cutting's advice, urged the members of the League to acquaint themselves with the workings of the departments of the city which touch the common people, the defenceless people, and then to make the people familiar with their own property. He earnestly invited the League to pay frequent visits to Blackwell's Island and become thoroughly conversant with the changes that have taken place there since 1902. "Our voters," he declared, "have paid for the property. Public officials are public servants to take care of this property. Make known the manner in which they have discharged their duties. Let it be a campaign of education. Whatever its faults, the record of the present administration is so far beyond that of any Tammany government that it should be only necessary to get the facts before the people to secure the re-election of the reform ticket."

Blackwell's Island

In accordance with the suggestion of Mr. Fulton, fifteen representatives of the Woman's Municipal League visited Blackwell's Island to inform themselves in regard to the improvements there introduced under the present administration. The itinerary covered the Metropolitan Hospital, City Hospital, the Tuberculosis Infirmary, the Maternity Hospital and the Alms House. The general impression was highly pleasing, and it was interesting to discover that the best things seen were improvements which had been added to the hospitals since the Fusion party came into power.

Under the former government of the city the hospital buildings were utterly different from what they are at the present time. The rooms were then all in the state of one in which we saw the repairs just beginning, that is,

the walls and woodwork were excessively shabby, the former having often had large holes in the plaster, and the paint having been worn beyond the power of scrubbing to make it look clean. There were no screens, no regular hospital-tables of the modern kind, no polished floors, no metal ceilings, and impossible as it may seem, no chairs! We were shown high stools upon which sick people, exhausted with illness, surgical operations, and severe hurts and accidents, had formerly been obliged to sit, whenever they were not lying in their beds! It was necessary to see these seats, precisely like high milking stools, before one could believe that any hospital could be so deficient in the commonest comforts for its patients.

Careful diet lists had been prepared by a food specialist, and we were able to read them and see that the invalids had excellent food, which we were told had not been the case formerly.

One little item of improvement, which shows an added thoughtfulness for the comfort of the patients, is that the old custom has been abolished of making every invalid, not actually in bed, rise and salute whenever the superintendent passed through the wards. Any one who has experienced the weakness and complete inertia of convalescence can imagine the annoyance and irritation caused by this foolish and arbitrary rule, and how much comfort has resulted from its being abolished.

Another advance over old methods is in the means of heating, patients having formerly suffered considerably from cold. Other improvements have been made in the care of those who die in the hospitals, whose bodies formerly were very liable to be mixed, and their identity lost, although the poor often have even more sentiment than the rich and highly educated in regard to the bodies of those whom they have loved. Now a metal tag attached to the wrist of each body makes mistakes impossible, and the deceased patients' relatives are now carefully protected against the extortions and tyranny of a regular gang of undertakers, who formerly preyed upon them with impunity.

The new furniture and apparatus supplied to the City Hospital within the last year has cost $6,000, while under the former rule of Tammany no money had been spent on it for four years. Yet, as we all know, Tammany was by no means saving of the city's funds, which, however, were not used for the benefit of that city.

There are excellent fire-escapes in one, if not in both, of these hospitals, of a kind which appears to be unique, namely, corkscrew tunnels, through which the patients can slide to the ground without injury and with but little difficulty, even for an invalid. We visitors were enabled to test this last fact, for a fire drill was given for our benefit, and we saw women and children (the latter in arms) come sliding out of the mouth of a tunnel in great glee.

At the Maternity Hospital all seemed as perfect and up-to-date as in the other ones, and at the new Tuberculosis Infirmary the line of tents for out-of-door living showed that the patients were having the advantage of the

very newest methods of treatment, and their diet was in accordance with the present theories.

The name of the Alms House has lately been changed by Commissioner Folks to The New York City Home for the Aged and Infirm, a change which is one of four made by him in city institutions, for the evident purpose of making it as little painful as possible for the respectable poor to enter them.

Among the other changes and improvements which were pointed out as the work of the new commission was that whereas the men used to sit at table back to back, the said table being about the width of a board, and eat out of tin dishes, they now sit at regular wooden tables and use white crockery. We had a chance to taste their supper, which was excellent, as well as to notice that more had been furnished than had in all cases been eaten, as we could see upon entering the dining room just as the men were filing out after their meal. The bread also, some of which had been left by the men, as being sometimes over-supplied, instead of stinted, was of the best quality, a new rule having been made that instead of the Alms House inmates having a different quality from the officers and doctors in the city institutions, all should be the same.

The tall shade trees, well kept lawns, and occasional beds of bright flowers, gave a cheerful and pleasant appearance to the Island, and the lot of the unfortunate people who compose the class of the city's poor seemed to be as happy as is consistent with the necessity of not making pauperism too attractive, while the sick poor in the hospitals seemed to be made as comfortable as possible.

A. P. C.

The Police System of the City of New York

The Police Department of any city ought to be thoroughly understood by every resident; for to it he or she owes a good share of the protection received upon street or in home. Every policeman ought, in the proper administration of his duty, to be aided in every possible way by those for whom he is toiling. There is no doubt that bad policemen exist; but that does not remove the fact that it is the interest and desire of the great majority of policemen to know and do their duty.

The head of the New York Police is really the Mayor; for he has in his appointment the Police Commissioner, who has under his immediate orders the whole police force.

The first duty, and one of the most important duties of the Commissioner, is to divide the city into precincts, or to indorse the division he finds already made upon entering the office. These precincts including all Greater New York, are at present eighty in number; and each contains certain streets and territory accurately laid down. Thus, Broadway is in the 11th precinct; the Bowery in the 15th precinct; Fifth Avenue in the 27th, etc.; etc. Certain

other streets conveniently near these are grouped in the same precincts. It is well for each citizen to know in what precinct he is, and the name of his Captain, which he can easily ascertain by asking the first policeman he meets.

The Captain of a precinct divides his territory into posts or patrol-beats, and subjects this division to the Police Commissioner and the Inspector.

Upon the Captain of a precinct devolves great responsibility. He is held responsibile for the peace and good order of his precinct; and if any one below him is at fault, he must fix the responsibility.

Under him are several Sergeants, one of whom takes command during the temporary absence of the Captain.

Under each of these are several Roundsmen, whose duty it is to inspect the patrolmen and see that each is doing his duty.

There are also door-men, police matrons, etc., for the station houses.

These precincts are divided into eleven inspection districts,—each, of course, containing several precincts.

The policeman whom we most often see is the Patrolman. He is of the rank and file of the police department,—the indispensable unit of the great quantity. Without him the city would be a cluster of anarchy—at the mercy of every wayward whim and unbridled passion. He may be shunned, dreaded, abused, sometimes justly criticised and censured; but he is indispensable. Without the fact of his existence and his real or possible presence, your very children could not go to school without being robbed on the way, —if they were not even themselves stolen, as they sometimes are, in spite of all. He looks formidable and commanding; and, within proper limits, his word is law; if any one accuses you of a misdemeanor, he can take both accused and accuser to the station house without the formality of a warrant; he can investigate anything that looks suspicious; he watches doors, windows, areas, gratings—everything that might be handy to a thief.

You probably do not know the name of the officer on your "post" or "beat," but if you are an old resident and he has been there any length of time, he knows yours and can name you at sight; that is one of his duties. He knows a great deal more of what is going on than you would naturally think; he has to acquire a good deal of knowledge of various kinds in order to use his power in the right manner. But although he possesses so much authority, he is under authority and watched much more closely than he watches others. He has taken a course of instruction three months long, in which for two hours each day he has been instructed as to his duties, and for two more has been drilled and subjected to other exercises.

The officer next higher in rank is the Roundsman. While those just described patrol the streets, the Roundsman patrols them. He visits each of them as often as possible during the time he is on duty, and reports any neglect of which they may be guilty.

The next highest officer is the Sergeant, of whom there is generally one to a certain number of roundsmen. He is really a Lieutenant to the Captain

of the precinct; he acts as such when the Captain is not there. He and his fellow sergeants have supervision of the patrolmen and roundsmen. He has to patrol his precinct to some extent, the same as the roundsmen; he is responsible for their good order, appearance and discipline.

At the head of each precinct is a Captain, whose duties are many and various, and who is responsible for the conduct of his under-officers, and for the good order of his precinct generally. He must visit portions of his precinct at times when he is not expected by his under-officers, and in this manner be sure that they are in the habit of doing their duty. He must protect the rights of persons and property, and of the community generally by many ways in which the details are and are not laid down. He wears a cap instead of a helmet, and upon it is the word siginifying his rank.

The much discussed question of the Platoon System resolves itself into the following facts: The patrol system of each precinct formerly consisted of three platoons—each taking eight hours out of the twenty-four; but on February 2, 1902, the rules were changed so as to divide the force of each precinct into two platoons, with an elaborate dividing off of the duties composing them. "This schedule (says the Police "Manual") gives thirty-six hours patrol, twenty-eight hours reserve and thirty-two hours home, for each policeman." This means, of course, out of each four days.

An Inspector has under his supervision the police of a district, which comprises several precincts. He has supervision of captains, sergeants, roundsmen and patrolmen. He also must visit the different officers and posts under him, frequently at "uncertain hours," and know they are performing their duty.

The Borough, of which their are five in Greater New York, consists of several districts; and over each is an inspector of Boroughs. He supervises, as far as practicable, the work of commanding officers, districts and squads.

The chief executive officer of the whole force of the entire city, is the Police Commissioner. He is responsible for the execution of all laws and the rules and regulations of the whole Department. He assigns policemen to duty, changes, suspends (pending trial) and possesses general power of police supervision. He has the power of issuing and promulgating all and any orders to the police force, not inconsistent with law. He is appointed by the Mayor, with whom the authority rests, as he is the highest executive officer of the city, and amenable and responsible to the people.

There are, as may be easily noticed, various special divisions of policemen, all of whom are under the same system and rules as above observed. There are bicycle squads, mounted squads, harbor and launch squads, patrol-wagon service, etc., etc. The duties of all these are definitely defined, and it would be interesting to study them in this article, but the limits of space forbid at present.

A. N. C.

Summer Reading

No reason is given oftener for not doing active work or taking responsibility in the work of the League, than that of ignorance and of lack of time to read up in any one direction. It is with a veiw to meeting this difficulty that a list of books has been prepared by the chairman of various committees who have found these books useful, and a few have been suggested by Mr, Woodruff, Secretary of the National Municipal League. It is hard to believe that a whole summer could go by without bringing the time which is necessary for reading at least one book from this list, and if any one of the members prefer to procure through the office, orders will be promptly attended to.

There is another class of reading which makes it easier to work along these lines, and that is the biographies of men and women who have given their time to public spirit. There are very few whose biographies have not been written, and they are probably so familiar to the majority of our readers that this passing reference to them seems all that is necessary.

ADMINISTRATION

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.....*John A. Fairlee*
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN GREAT BRITIAN.....*Albert Shaw*
MUNICIPAL HOME RULE.....*Frank J. Goodnow*
NEW YORK POLITICAL PRIMER.....*Adele M. Fielde*
POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION.....*Frank J. Goodnow*
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
City Club of New York
THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
City Club of New York
THE MUNICIPAL PROBLEM.....*Frank J. Goodnow*
THE MUNICIPAL PROGRAM.....*National Municipal League*

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

AMERICAN MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.....*Charles Zueblin*
MUNICIPAL YEAR-BOOK.....*M. N. Baker*
THE COMING CITY.....*Richard T. Ely*
THE LEAVEN IN A GREAT CITY.....*Lillian W. Betts*

GOVERNMENT

A FIGHT FOR THE CITY.....*Alfred Hodder*
GOVERNMENT IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE.....*Albert Shaw*
GREATER NEW YORK GENERAL ORDINANCES.....*George Whitfield Brown, Jr.*
HOW A MODERN CITY SHOULD BE GOVERNED.....*J. A. Cantor*
NEW YORK IN BONDAGE.....*John D. Townsend*
THE FINANCES OF NEW YORK CITY.....*Duranp*
THE GOVERNMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES.....*Dorman B. Eaton*

HYGIENE

Bacteria in Daily Life.....*Mrs. Frankland Porter*
Handbook on Sanitation.....*Dr. George N. Price*

EXCISE

If not the Saloon—What?.....*James E. Freeman*
Sunday Legislation.....*Dr. A. H. Lewis*

PENOLOGY

Proceedings of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections.
Reports of the Prison Association of New York.
Report of The Women's Prison Association.
The Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy, January, 1903.

TENEMENTS

"Charities," Vol. IX, No. 25, December 20, 1902.
" " X, " 8, February 21, 1903.
" " " " 10, March 7, 1903.
" " " " 18, May 2, 1903.
How the Other Half Lives.....*Jacob A. Riis*
The Battle with the Slums..... " " "

CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Boys' Self-Governing Clubs.....*Winifred Buck*
The First Children's Farm.....*Fannie G. Parsons*

An effort will be made to hold the public meeting once a month throughout the summer, in the belief that enough of our members pass through town to make it worth while to offer them an opportunity of meeting each other and keeping in touch with the work.

The membership of the Woman's Municipal League is invited to visit Blackwell's Island with a view to studying the improved conditions of the Departments of Public Charities and Health, on Tuesdays, by the boat which leaves the foot of East 26th Street at 10.30 a.m. Please communicate with the office not later than Friday morning.